ILLUSTRATIVE INCIDENTS FOR PUBLIC SPEAKERS

WILL. H. BROWN

LINCOLN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

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Illustrative Incidents for Public Speakers

BY

WILL H. BROWN

Author of "The Call of Service," "The Legacy of the Golden Key," etc.

CINCINNATI

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INTRODUCTION

"THE PUBLIC SPEAKER."

BEECHER'S BEGINNING.

"Success comes in cans, failures in can'ts," was said in a talk to young men.

Generally considered, the person who is determined to acquire the ability to speak well in public will succeed. Dr. John F. Cowan says of Beecher: "He was naturally thick of speech, owing to an enlarged palate, and as a boy talked as if he had mush in his mouth. He was dull in learning from books, and awkward. But he had so much of the unscared spirit that he would spend a whole hour practicing a single word. And when later this magnificent orator was able to seize upon the emotions of an apathetic audience, and stir his hearers to tempestuous applause, as a cloudburst converts a dry stream into a roaring torrent, it was simply the triumph of the unscared man."

In this day of varied activities and numerous organizations, the ability to make acceptable and helpful public talks is no longer confined to ministers, lawyers and lecturers. Many persons in the great army of workers in the churches, Sunday schools, young people's societies, clubs and lodges are capable of responding to requests for short talks or addresses.

In order to interest others, the speaker should talk of things in which he is himself interested, and concerning which he is informed. Ambassador James Bryce once said: "The man who has something to say, and who is known never to speak unless he has, is sure to be listened to. Arrange your thoughts in some sort of order. No matter how brief, they will be better

for having a beginning, a middle and an end. Never read from manuscript if you can avoid it."

TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER.

Association Men, official organ of the Young Men's Christian Association, gives this suggestion: "The first and last words challenge attention and fix the message. A speaker, addressing a college students' meeting, caught a hearing and carried a thought in his talk with these words: 'What we are to be, we are now becoming.' An epigram sticks and furnishes the nail to hang the coat on that fits the hearer. A man must be so charged with his subject that his words will be as thunderbolts hurled with striking force upon his audience. Make a *hit,* not a *noise.*"

CARE IN EMPHASIS.

Jefferson's view of this phase of public speaking is given thus: "I don't mean that a minister is never to speak loud. If he has a great voice, he has a right to let it out in thunder tones when the thought flashes and his emotions rise in tempests. But bellowing simply for the sake of making a noise is always bad."

While the following appeared in print as a jest, it has a point that some would do well to heed: "I see you have a sounding-board at the back of the minister's pulpit," said Baron. "What do you suppose that's for?" "Why," replied Egbert, "it's to throw out the sound." "Gracious!" said Baron, "if you throw out the sound, there wouldn't be anything left of the sermon!"

Some speakers, much in earnest, wishing to lay emphasis on certain points of an address, easily fall into the mistake of emphasizing the larger part of it. The peaks in a mountain range that impress us most are the ones that lift high their heads above their surroundings.

The folly of overemphasis in speaking may be compared to a certain book, the author of which presumably had this fault. On the first page alone he used italics eight times, had several

words in capitals, some in small capitals and still others in black-faced type. In fact, nearly every conceivable form of emphasis was used over and over again, with the result that nothing was made to appear of special importance. Applied to a public address, it would be much like one big, long roar—unpleasant to every hearer.

CLEAR ARTICULATION.

Equal in value to having something worth while to say, is to say it so it can be understood. A good rule is to speak as if addressing your words to those who are farthest from you. Nathan Shepherd, in his book, "Before an Audience," says:

"It is impossible to overestimate the importance of a good, trustworthy, uniform articulation to the public speaker. He can have no more useful form of ability than audibility. Distinctness is vital. Indistinctness is fatal. Chatham was noted for his distinct articulation, which was a physical attainment, cultivated with assiduous pains. His whisper penetrated everywhere, and his full voice was overwhelming."

Mrs. Macey, the wonderful teacher of the marvelous Helen Keller, is one of the most pleasing speakers ever heard on the American platform, largely because she is one of the most distinct in articulation. She is practically perfect in this respect. In talking to Helen Keller she gives full, careful utterance to every word, in order that her pupil, with hand on the muscles of her teacher's throat, may distinctly *feel* every movement of the muscles, and thus *know* what Mrs. Macey says, though she can not hear a sound of any kind.

This is a striking example of the importance of speaking clearly, and a goal well worth the striving for of every public speaker. Aside from the pleasure afforded persons whose hearing is normal, the distinct voice is greatly appreciated by those who are "hard of hearing," who often get but little of what is said—*not* because the speaker's voice is not *loud* enough, but be-

cause his articulation is not *distinct* enough. There are others who are enabled to follow the speaker's thought by watching the movement of the lips. The more careful the pronunciation, the more distinct the lip movements.

Jerry Albert Pierce, a speech-reader of sixty years' standing, says that the ability to read the lips is of advantage even to those who have normal ears, and that many persons possess this ability to some degree, without realizing it. "A conversation between any two individuals," he writes in the *Volta Review*, Washington, D. C., "is not completely heard. Part of it is seen. People speaking to each other almost invariably stand face to face. They are reading the lips, simply because speech-reading renders the strain on the auditory organs less acute."

This shows the advantage of having every hearer in an audience seated where he can see the speaker.

READY UTTERANCE.

Closely akin to careless, slovenly pronunciation, as an annoyance to the auditors, is the occasional habit of some speakers in stammering, halting, hesitating—not because of an impediment of speech, but often because of a foggy state of mind, an indefinite idea of what to say. This may be due to carelessness, lack of preparation, lack of proper rest, or overeating a short time previous to speaking. Some speakers make it a rule to omit the meal immediately preceding the making of an address of importance. One of the merits of fasting is in leaving the mind clearer. After-dinner talks at feasts are not here referred to, because such are usually in a light vein, requiring but little effort at mental continuity.

THINGS TO AVOID.

Personal mannerisms should be eliminated as far as possible by him who wishes his message to go straight to his hearers, without diversion or hindrance of any kind. A prominent min-

ister had the habit of taking hold of his collar, as if to adjust it. Another made sudden, jerky motions of the hand as if to stroke back his hair, frequently never touching it. A Sunday-school superintendent rested his thumbs in his trousers pockets. A

ADJUSTING THE COLLAR.

STROKING THE HAIR.

woman teacher clenched her fists and shook them nervously toward her pupils when speaking. A boy in one of her classes refused to attend because it made him restless to watch her. The

president of a college held his hands partly clasped and twirled his thumbs while speaking. A friend asked him: "Doctor, why do you always twirl your thumbs this way?" making the motion.

THUMBS IN THE POCKETS.

TWIRLING THE THUMBS.

The reply was, "I don't always make them go that way. Sometimes I make them go *this* way," twirling them backward.

If you have any pet phrases, better drop them too. A popular orator often said in his public discourses, "What I am trying to

get you to see is," etc. With some it is, "That reminds me." With others, "That makes me think." Still others, "I'm here to tell you."

The importance of proper attire should not be overlooked. Extremes should be avoided by the speaker who wishes the closest possible attention to his or her message. The most common fault in this respect is a conspicuous display of jewelry, flashing and sparkling with the changing positions of the wearer. Modest-appearing watch-chains, rings or other articles are not out of place, neither is expensive clothing, if made up in a simple, becoming manner. Disheveled hair is inexcusable, as is anything else indicating carelessness in regard to one's appearance.

WHAT MAKES FOR STRENGTH.

Gestures may be an aid or a hindrance. "An Italian psychologist," says *Grit*, "maintains that as an orator's gestures are involuntary, they afford a test of his sincerity. For instance, if the speaker plays with his watch-chain he is on his guard, and his utterances are not entirely frank."

A minister who held one of the most important pastorates on the Pacific Coast, and who was later chosen president of a well-known college in the East, spoke to great audiences every Sunday, scarcely moving from his position or raising a hand from the beginning to the close of his sermons. Moreover, his voice was pitched neither high nor low, the range being less than that of the average speaker. And yet the people flocked to his church. Why? *Because he had something to say.* There was meat in every sentence. His sermons were not long. When he had finished a discourse he didn't spoil it by "Just another thought," or by "It has just occurred to me." He left his few points, clothed in beautiful, striking language, lodged in receptive hearts. The people went away impressed by what all hearers should be impressed with—the *message* of the speaker.

Other speakers, just as effective, move about on the platform,

use many gestures, and modulate the voice from soft tones to loud. Perhaps the best advice at this point is: Be clear. Be earnest. Be natural. Be yourself. *Don't imitate.*

The most popular speaker is he who quits with his hearers wishing he would go on, and *not* the one who goes on while his hearers are wishing he would stop. "An inch isn't much space," some one has said, "but if placed on the end of your nose would spoil your countenance." Ten minutes isn't much time, but it has spoiled many an address that should have been that much shorter.

The tendency to hold on is often due to the desire to give as much information or make as many points as possible. Information briefly, strikingly presented stands a much better chance of being retained than that surrounded by a lot of second-rate expressions. Sufficient food at one time is more agreeable and helpful than too much.

WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT.

It is often noticeable at conventions that some speakers request "a little more time." If granted, it usually means that others on the program must be robbed of a portion of theirs, or that the session is prolonged until every one is tired. This has become so general that in many assemblies the buzzer is used. The man who must be called down by the buzzer, after the first gentle warning of a minute more for him, almost invariably loses favor with his hearers.

At a largely attended Sunday-school institute the presiding officer was apparently about to grant an extension of time to the person who had been speaking, when the next man on the program arose and protested, stating that he had an important message on which he had spent much care, and was prepared to give it at the time, and within the time, allotted him; that he did not wish to be crowded nor have his time cut down. Who will say he did not do just the right thing?

If it is ever your privilege to introduce or present a speaker to an audience, be brief—*very* brief. It frequently seems that the one chosen for this duty considers it an opportunity to exhibit something of his own ability. It is often the case that the speaker is better known to most of the people present, at least by reputation, than the one introducing him—another reason for a very brief, modest talk by the latter.

THE DANGER IN DETAILS.

One of the most common faults of public speakers—sometimes found even among those of wide reputation—is that of indulging in too much detail, not only proving wearisome to the average hearer, but often obscuring the real point. Those who are frank with themselves and know this to be a weakness, may overcome it by first writing out incidents as they are wont to tell them, then cut them down one-fourth or one-half. It is surprising how often this can be done without omitting anything of genuine importance, with the added advantages of brevity and clearness.

Soon after the close of the Spanish-American War in 1898, a Kansas City daily paper offered a prize for the best answer, given in one hundred words or less, to the question: "Which was the greatest exploit? That of Dewey, Schley or Hobson, and why?"

It will be remembered that Dewey, in command of the United States fleet at Manila, sunk the Spanish ships there; that Schley routed the Spanish naval forces at Santiago de Cuba; and that Hobson conceived and executed the idea of sinking the collier "Merrimac," three hundred feet in length, in the narrow channel leading to the harbor in which the Spanish fleet had taken refuge —this for the purpose of bottling up the Spanish ships, thus making reasonably sure their capture by United States forces.

As will readily be seen, response to such a proposition made brevity inevitable. No doubt many of the nearly one thousand

who competed received a valuable lesson in expressing much in few words. Here is one of the letters:

"Hobson, in his hazardous exploit, exemplified Herculean heroism. Dewey and Schley, old, experienced naval men, confident of victory, obeyed compensatory orders, while Hobson willingly faced death, expecting no prize money, promotion or other earthly reward. None had a right to command the sacrifice this young man volunteered. Himself and seven courageous comrades, penetrating a narrow, dangerous channel, defied forts, mines, battleships and perils incident to sinking the 'Merrimac,' without human protection. Dewey, with a strong squadron, piloted safely into Manila Bay, encountered less danger, while Schley, with ships in abundance, had neither mines nor forts to fear."

CARRY A NOTE-BOOK.

It is generally understood that a wide range of reading is necessary for a public speaker, whatever degree of ability he may possess. But here is something well worth remembering: While much reading is important, it can not take the place of personal contact with the people. In this way only, it might be affirmed, can one be able to present a live subject in a vital manner. Some of the most noted and successful public speakers make it a rule to always carry a note-book, and when a story or an idea comes to mind, suggested by something seen or heard, jot it down immediately. It is possible in this way to obtain much splendid material not to be found in books or papers, the using of which gives an originality to one's address which is refreshing to the hearers.

A great financier once said: "I go to school to every person I meet. I never lose the opportunity to get a man's point of view, no matter who he is. Some of the most valuable information I have, has come to me from talking with workingmen. I know my own point of view. I must get theirs if I would be cosmopolitan, international."

POWER OF GENIALITY.

It is a matter of more significance than might be surmised by many that the speaker should be in good humor. A frank, cheerful countenance and a kindly tone are splendid conductors of messages, particularly if the speaker is to address an audience composed of those who are opposed to his views. If he does not succeed in bringing all to his way of thinking, he will win more in this manner than by antagonizing them, and will retain the confidence and respect of every one.

H. Clay Trumbull says: "If there is one thing more important than another in a speaker's efforts to win his hearers, it is that he shall take his start at a point where he and they are in agreement, and not at a point of their differences."

If interrupted by an auditor with a question, treat him fairly, honorably, regardless of the spirit he may manifest. Your impartiality and perfect self-control under such circumstances will have much to do with the further favorable reception of your message.

WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE.

The climax of all factors in the preparation and presentation of an address is the ability to wisely *use words.* They are marvelous, living things. Every speaker should give this subject thorough, careful study. A column editorial in the Atlanta *Constitution* on the use of words included the following:

"Jesus himself said: 'My words, they are spirit and *they are life.*' Words have peculiar value and force in the processes of life. Each one is instinct with the *spirit* of the idea for which it stands, and has the power *in itself* to quicken the hearer into life and action. Words start, arrest or modify action, whether physical, mental or spiritual. The 'Forward!' and the 'Halt!' of the captain sets in motion or brings to a standstill the single soldier or the whole embattled line of the army. Words make wars, give birth to nations, exalt and debase rulers, scourge or bless

millions, build up or break down the safeguards of human society through the mighty measure of their power over the thoughts and motions of mankind.

"Yet human words are powerless unless they speak from life to life. The wireless telegraph works only when the sender and receiver are in sympathetic tune with each other. They must vibrate with identical rhythm in order that words may pass and produce their effects. So it must be among men. The speaker and the hearer must have chords of sympathy that will mutually vibrate within the gamut of concord. This is the key which leads to the unravelment of the strange threads of power by which one man moves another, or moves many, to righteousness or ruin."

It is said of Jesus in John 7:46: "Never man spake like this man." Back of his perfect use of words was his perfect *life;* his absolute sincerity; his love for and understanding of human beings. Just in proportion as men possess these qualities will they be able to speak for the uplifting of humanity. While it is possible to become eloquent in oratory without being sincere, truthful or consistent, he who does so may succeed in entertaining or amusing his hearers, but *never* in helping or instructing them. It is a most degrading, unworthy use of the ability to speak in public.

THE PLACE OF THE STORY.

Again it is said of Jesus: "Without a parable spake he not unto them."

Yes, the greatest of all teachers made constant use of the story. Frequently it was concerning some object in nature, which those to whom he was speaking could behold—the lily, the fig-tree, sowing of grain, the bramble and thorn, the mustard seed, the wheat and the tares. Or, it was of things and conditions with which they were familiar—the draw-net, the lost sheep, the lost coin, the unjust steward, the pounds, the prodigal

son, the ten virgins, the talents, the good Samaritan, the laborers in the vineyard.

If the *perfect Teacher* had such an important place for the story, the illustration, well may all public speakers and teachers strive to make good use of the same. Stories of human interest, that touch the heart; of objects in nature, that appeal to the mind; of odd and strange happenings, that impress by contrast.

The purpose in presenting this volume is to furnish just such material, with a variety of classified illustrations that may prove a ready, welcome help to the busy person, whether preparing to give a short talk at an informal gathering, or an address on an occasion of recognized public importance.

CLASSIFIED ILLUSTRATIONS

ACTIVITY.

PAINTING A GREAT TOWER.

Fifteen men are constantly employed in painting the great Blackpool steel tower, in England, to prevent rust and decay.

He who would maintain a strong character, free from the rust of monotony and the decay of carelessness, must be constantly active along helpful lines.

"IRONS IN THE FIRE."

Adam Clarke said that the old proverb about having too many irons in the fire was false. Wesley traveled five thousand miles in a year, usually preached three times a day, and his published works reached nearly two hundred volumes. Asbury traveled six thousand miles a year and preached incessantly. Coke crossed the Atlantic eighteen times, preached, wrote, traveled, established missions and raised money for their support.—*Stevens.*

WHY THE HOUSE SANK.

While a contractor was debating the best landing-place for a house which he had successfully moved a distance of half a mile over a small frozen lake in Minnesota, the building sank in six feet of water. The ice, which was ten inches thick, was abundantly strong to support the structure while it was moving along, but could not bear up the dead weight when it was brought to a standstill.

If you are a professing Christian, a church-member, keep moving along with your part of the work—keep busy. If you

stop to criticize, to find fault, your dead weight will not only be a burden that the church can not afford to bear, but you may lose your soul—may go down to spiritual death in the cold waters of indifference.

SNAIL'S REAL PACE.

George Zahnizer, a civil engineer, was waiting for a train at a country station, and occupied the time by studying a snail which was creeping along the ground, relates London *Tit-Bits*, ascertaining that it moved at the rate of one foot in four minutes, or one mile in sixteen days.

There is this difference between a snail and a certain type of human beings—the latter do not even progress a mile in sixteen days. They stand still in all that counts for human progress or happiness. If they move at all, it is to go around in a very small circle.

SOME PHYSICAL FACTS.

"When a man rises from a sitting to a standing posture, he doubles the force of his pressure on the ground. Standing still, the pressure acts vertically downward, but on moving he exerts a side thrust greater than his weight."

The above simply has reference to a man's physical movements, but the same process marks his influence for the uplift of others. In sitting—idleness—it is very little. Arising—making a beginning—it is doubled. Moving—doing something worth while—he exerts a "side thrust" that will be felt in an ever-widening circle of good deeds.

APPEARANCE.

ON LOOKING ONE'S BEST.

A pleasing appearance, when it is the result of intention and effort, is generally the indication of a desire to please in more substantial ways. People who like to look their best are apt to like to do their best. It is safe to assume, as a general thing,

that one who is careful about his appearance will be careful about his manner of life, his mental habits and his work.—*James Buckham.*

HIS CHOICE, AND WHY.

It is often true that persons thought to be dull and unobserving see deeper than many who boast of their keen insight. In an English village lived a boy who was considered stupid, says the *Tatler,* and the men there found delight in offering him the choice between a three-penny bit and a penny, of which he invariably chose the latter. One day a stranger asked the boy for his reason for doing so, presuming it was because the penny was the largest.

"Naw," said the boy, "not that. If I took the three-penny bit, they'd quit offerin' it."

SHE WOULDN'T PAY.

Persons who are hasty in reaching conclusions, based on appearances, frequently have embarrassing experiences. "I shall have to ask you for a ticket for that boy, ma'am," insisted a conductor, speaking to a quiet-looking little woman seated beside a boy on a Pennsylvania train.

The woman declined to pay for the lad, saying she had never done so before. "You'll pay for that boy, or I'll stop the train and put him off," he persisted.

"All right, put him off," she said calmly.

"You ought to know what the rules of this road are, ma'am. How old is that boy?"

"I don't know. I never saw him before."—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

STRANGERS TO SOAP.

Chester A. Arthur, when serving as President, refused to appoint a certain man to a public office, believing he was unfit for the place, basing his opinion upon the man's personal appear-

ance. "He called on me once," said the President. "His hands were unclean, his clothes soiled, his breath bad. There is something wrong with a person who will not take care of his personal appearance. Water and soap are cheap, and clean clothes may be had by any one."

However, Mr. Arthur yielded to persuasion, and made the appointment, much against his will. The man had been in office but a few months when it became necessary to remove him because of disgraceful conduct.

HADN'T CAUGHT UP.

Personal cleanliness and neatness is an essential condition for the worthy poor who would ask or expect the aid of others. Garments ever so faded or patched may be worn with honor, if clean, while filth and rags will turn many a kind-hearted, well-disposed person away from those seeking aid, thus attired. It is a mistaken idea that sympathy may be won by appearing as untidy as possible.

The story is told of a seedy-looking man calling at a house and asking assistance, saying he was a sailor, and had "follered the water for sixteen years."

"Well," said the woman, after a critical look, "you certainly don't look as if you ever caught up with it."

Then she turned away without helping him.

GOOD RECOMMENDATIONS.

Several boys responded to an advertisement, applying for a position. All but one brought papers from former employers attesting to their good points, but the one who brought no letter of recommendation was chosen for the place. A friend asked the business man how it happened, says the *Boys' World,* to which he replied:

"No, he gave me no *papers,* but I read a whole lot, just the same. In the first place, he wiped his feet on the mat at the

door. Then he jumped up at once to give his seat to a lame boy that came in soon after. He answered my questions without the slightest hesitation or slang. He picked up a book I had purposely left on the floor. His clothes were carefully brushed, his teeth clean and his hair combed. Oh, there were a lot of things I read in that boy—that's why I took him."

WHY HE BURNED HIS VEST.

In his days of youth, Congressman Barnes had a dotted green vest which had been made over for him from that of an ancestor, we read. He wore it one day when seeking work, thinking it would surely make an impression in his favor. Approaching the proprietor of a large mill, he stated his desire. The man immediately caught sight of the vest, and replied:

"I'll take you on one condition, and that is that you burn that vest right away—burn it up before my eyes hurt more."

The owner of the garment sorrowfully complied, putting it in the stove, whereupon the man kindly placed his hand on his shoulder, remarking:

"You've got pluck, and you'll go ahead. But never outdress your position. Dress clean and dress like a man."

In telling of the incident, the Congressman added:

"So through the years the memory of that vest and my first job have kept my clothes sensible."

BIBLE.

INFIDELITY ANSWERED.

The printing-press from which Voltaire's infidel works were issued has been used to print the word of God. Chesterfield's parlor, once an infidel clubroom, is now a vestry where Christians meet for prayer and praise. Hume predicted the death of Christianity in twenty years, but the first meeting of the Bible Society in Edinburgh was held in the room where he died. Paine,

on landing in New York, predicted that in five years not a Bible would be found in the United States, but there are more Bible societies in America to-day than in any other country in the world.—*Answer of a Christian to an Unbeliever (Nye).*

THE TRUE LIGHT.

The Bible is like a lighthouse. The New Testament is the lantern. There are four plate-glass sides to it, the Gospels; and inside is one intense glow, flashing its radiance everywhere. That one light is He who said: "I am the light of the world."—*P. Waugh.*

LINCOLN'S ADVICE.

Joshua Speed found Lincoln one summer night reading the Bible, and remarked: "If you have recovered from your skepticism, I am sorry that I have not."

Looking him earnestly in the face and placing a hand on his shoulder, Lincoln said kindly: "You are wrong, Speed. Take all of this Book on reason that you can, and the balance on faith, and you will live and die a happier man."

EXPENSIVE COPY OF THE BIBLE.

The Gutenberg Bible, the first book ever printed from movable type, and which finally came into the hands of Robert Hoe, was sold at a public auction of Hoe's books, in New York, to Henry E. Huntington, of Los Angeles, for $50,000. The book was printed about the year 1450.

Fortunately, the possession of a copy of the Bible does not depend upon the ability to pay a large price for it. The value is not in the style of type or binding used, or the date printed, but in the *words of life* contained therein. "The word of our God shall stand for ever" (Isa. 40:8). Christ says: "The words that I speak unto you they are *spirit* and they are *life.*" When Peter and John were in Samaria to bring the Holy Spirit upon certain persons by the laying on of hands, Simon came and offered them money, saying: "Give me also this power, that on

whomsoever I lay my hands, he may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said unto him: "Thy silver perish with thee, because thou hast thought to obtain the gift of God with money."

The tendency to weigh money against religion was again manifested when Paul's preaching at Ephesus caused many to give up their false worship, thus seriously interfering with the business of the silversmiths in the sale of idols—so much so that Demetrius called the workmen together and cried out: "Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth!"

ONE BOOK FOR HIM.

When Stanley started across the continent of Africa, he had seventy-three books, but as the journey continued through the days and weeks he was obliged to gradually throw away the books until they were all gone but one—the Bible. It is said he read it through three times on that remarkable trip. It is the one Book that lives through the ages; that has stood the test of all centuries and earth's greatest minds. A noted professor in the University of Edinburgh was asked by its librarian to go into the library and pick out all the books on his specialty that were no longer needed. His reply was, "Take every text-book over ten years old and put it in the cellar."

TESTING A SHIP'S COMPASS.

A California man who made a trip to Palestine told of the great rock, Gibraltar, and added: "When we moved slowly away I was surprised to observe that our ship made a complete circle before putting out to sea, and inquired the reason. I was informed that because of the heavy electrically charged mines maintained in the harbor by the British Government, all steel ships are required to make a circle, as did ours, these mines sometimes proving disastrous to the ship's magnetic needle. If it stands the test, it is considered safe as a guide for the remainder of the voyage. So I would say to young people just starting out on life's sea: if you have God's word as a guide, you are

ready to make the start, for this Book has stood the test of ages. It will never fail you."

THE WORLD'S MIRROR.

The long-distance mirror is a remarkable invention. The New York *American* says that in a test at Vallejo, California, on a dark night, a perfect picture of the district within a radius of two miles was clearly reflected. It is generally conceded that its principal value will be its use on ships, in preventing collisions with other ships, icebergs or derelicts, by disclosing the location of such dangers long before the vessel comes near them. It is claimed, too, that it would prove serviceable in time of war.

Important as it is to prevent shipwrecks by every possible means, it is nothing compared with the importance of preventing human wrecks. The whole world has a mirror given for this very purpose—the Bible. Hear the great apostle, Paul, in 2 Cor. 3:18: "But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit."

POVERTY DUE TO NEGLECT.

An old man in New Jersey discovered about $5,000 in bank notes in a family Bible. In 1874 his aunt died, and one clause of her will read: "To my beloved nephew I will and bequeath my family Bible and all it contains, with the residue of my estate after my funeral expenses and just, lawful debts are paid." The estate amounted to only a few hundred dollars, which was soon spent; and her nephew neglected his Bible for thirty-five years, not knowing of the treasures it contained. He lived in poverty all this time. At last, while packing his trunk to move to his son, with whom he expected to spend his remaining years, he discovered the money hidden away in the Bible. Those who neglect to read their Bibles lose even greater treasures than those of this world.—*American Messenger.*

BOYS.

NOVEL ADMISSION FEE.

At Bay Shore, Long Island, a banquet was given by the Men's Brotherhood to the boys of the community. It was desired to interest them in the Sunday school. Every member was requested to bring a boy as the price of admission.

THAT LITTLE CHAP O' MINE.

To feel his little hand in mine, so clinging and so warm;
To know he thinks me strong enough to keep him safe from harm;
To see his simple faith in all that I can say or do—
It sort o' shames a fellow, but it makes him better, too;
And I reckon I'm a better man than what I used to be,
Because I have this chap at home who thinks the world o' me.

—*Author Unknown.*

THE BOYS' ROOM STILL.

There's a little room at the head of the stairs
That has always been known as the boys';
It would hardly seem right not to call it theirs,
When you look at the books and the toys.
The drum brooding there in th esilence alone,
And the fife that shall never more thrill;
Though many the years that have come and gone,
Yet we call it the "Boys' Room still.

As a pilgrim I come, at the close of the day,
To this shrine of the long, long ago;
And lo, as I kneel in the silence to pray,
There are whisperings fond that I know.
My heart gives itself to the visional thrall,
While the twilight dies out of the west;
The drum may not summon, the fife may not call,
Yet I keep with the phantoms their quest.

—*D. A. Ellsworth, in Kansas City Star.*

LEARN THE REASON.

When boys are found delinquent in some way, and are commonly called bad, it's better to investigate the cause, and remedy it, if possible, than to criticize and send them to a reformatory

institution. There are many proofs of the wisdom of such a course. Here is just one: In 1909, in the grammar schools of Philadelphia, 326 boys were declared bad, stupid and incorrigible. A local physician began a study of the problem. Each boy was carefully examined, and in every instance the lads were found to have defective eyes. The city spent $400 for glasses for them, which resulted in a remarkable change of conduct. Two years later it was reported that 310 of the boys were sound, happy, studious and *on the roll of honor!*

While defective physical eyesight was the cause of delinquency in the cases of these boys, it is just as true that defective mental and moral vision is the cause of much wrong on the part of adults.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

RECIPE FOR A MAN.

Some pluck and patience, a good deal of work,
With never a hint of the will to shirk;
A cheerful temper, unselfish deeds,
And a lot of earnestness, each boy needs.

A good deal of study, and plenty of play—
Be sure you do it the very best way.
Just follow this recipe, laddie, and see
In a few years what a man you'll be!

—*Jean Halifax.*

CHARACTER.

WHEN HE WAS STRONGEST.

Frederick the Great once wrote to his Government: "I have just lost a battle, and it is my own fault." Commenting upon this, Goldsmith said: "His confession showed more greatness than his victories."

THE HERO OF AUTHORS.

A large company of representative authors once took a vote as to the best story in all literature, considered simply as a liter-

ary product. By a large majority they voted for the story of Joseph, one of the twelve sons of Jacob.—*Maclaren.*

MONEY COULD NOT BUY.

Gen. Robert E. Lee was once offered $10,000 a year for the use of his name in connection with a State lottery, at a time when money was a pressing necessity with him. His reply to those who made the proposal was: "Gentlemen, my name is all I have left, and that is not for sale."

WHY HE MOVED.

A new Government survey which resulted in a change of the boundary-line between Massachusetts and Vermont didn't suit one sentimental man, and, rather than be considered a resident of the latter State, he moved his house, at an expense of $1,000, into the other, which he supposed had been his home for years.

The most essential of two questions is not *where,* but *how,* we live.

OPINION OF A FINANCIER.

The value of character as a business asset was the subject of a part of J. Pierpont Morgan's testimony before the money-trust investigation in Washington in 1912. The question was asked him: "Commercial credits are based upon the possession of money or property?" to which he replied: "No, sir; the *first* thing is *character,* before money or anything else. *Money can not buy it.*"

WHY WALLS CRACK.

No matter how good the walls and the materials are, if the foundations are not strong, the building will not stand. By and by, in some upper room, a crack will appear, and men will say: "There is the crack, but the cause is in the foundation." So if, in youth, you lay the foundations of your character wrongly, the penalty will be sure to follow. The crack may be far down in old age, but somewhere it will certainly appear.—*Beecher.*

THUGS USE RED PEPPER.

Jewelry and uncut gems to the value of over $50,000 were stolen from a New York salesman by thugs, who first threw red pepper in his eyes, so blinding and paining him that he was practically helpless.

Be careful, friend, that the devil does not throw gold dust into *your* eyes. If he succeeds, you will be so blinded to all that makes life worth living that you will be an easy victim to his designs. He is after your *soul.*

NO SUBSTITUTES.

Among the things mentioned by a popular magazine for which it says no practical substitute has been found are gutta percha and cork.

Many articles of common use are made of material different from what they appear. Perhaps in time substitutes may be found for the things mentioned, but we may rest assured that a substitute for honor, for truth, will never be found. Nothing can take their places. They are priceless. Cling to them at all times and under all conditions.

FAR DOWN IN THE EARTH.

Perhaps, when looking at some great building, you have wondered how so much weight could be sustained by the foundation, little thinking how firm it may be. One of the deepest foundations in the world is said to be that of the Municipal Building in New York City, which penetrates the earth to a depth of four hundred feet.

Perhaps, when you know of a man holding a position of great responsibility, handling large sums of money belonging to others, you wonder how he can resist the temptation to reserve a part of it for his own use. It's because his character rests upon the foundation of Christian manliness and honor, going deep down into his very soul of love for Christ, his Master.

FLIES DRAW COLOR-LINE.

"It has been found that flies have a great objection to the color blue," says a French paper. It states that a farmer who heard of the discovery gave the inside of his sheds a coat of bluewash in place of the customary whitewash, and that his 170 cows housed therein were no longer troubled with flies.

When we ascertain what the pests of sin do *not* like, we should do that very thing. We can not afford to be "off color" in matters of right and wrong.

NOVEL WALKING-STICK.

A British sailor made a cane by wrapping love letters around a steel spike. While they had the appearance of being combined so as to make a strong walking-stick, the real strength was in the iron within.

We look in vain for the strong points in the make-up of any character if we fail to take into account the heart of the individual. His real strength is within. It shows by what he is able to do and not by what he may *appear* to be.

THE USE OF THE EYES.

Custom-house officers are usually good judges of character, because of their wide experience in meeting all classes of people. An instance of this was revealed in New York when a passenger from Europe denied the possession of any dutiable goods. Not satisfied with his statement, the officers searched him and found diamonds on his person valued at $15,000.

The human face can seldom conceal the feelings of the heart. "We see the world through our eyes—the world sees *us* in the same way."

WHAT THE SIGN MEANT.

When I entered the great Edison factories at Orange, New Jersey, I was struck by an order posted on every wall, forbidding the smoking of cigarettes within the plant, by either visitors or

workmen. I asked if it was because of a fear of fire. "No! The fear of lunacy!" was the caustic answer. "We haven't any use for men without brains. You won't find any cigarette-smokers around here. When a man uses the things, his brain runs down. You can't give us any fine theories about it—we *know!*" That is a terrific answer to the cigarette-smoker from the greatest brain in the world.—*H. J. O'Brien.*

A PATCHED-UP MAN.

Several years ago a New York man was seriously injured in an explosion. The doctors patched him up, and, by the use of a cork leg, a cork arm, a rubber ear, glass eye and wig, he looked as much like a man as before the accident. In 1914 he sailed for Holland to marry a Dutch girl, and one paper, in relating the incident, referred to him as "the most artificial man in the world."

Yet he may be "more of a man" than many who have a perfect physique, and are artificial in conduct and manners. The real man is in the heart, mind, soul, and not in the flesh, the bone, the blood.

SOLDIERS GUARD A MILLION.

When a shipment of $1,000,000 in gold was being made from the United States sub-treasury in San Francisco to the Philippines, it was guarded by twenty-five soldiers while being hauled through the streets to the transport dock.

It is apparent to any observer that wherever great sums of money or money values are exposed to danger from robbers, more care and expense are taken than where boys and girls are exposed to the dangers of the streets, where tempters would rob them of their virtue. It should be the reverse.

"He who steals my purse steals trash; but he that filches from me my good name, robs me of that which enriches not him, but makes me poor indeed."

SLOW STARTS AND QUICK STOPS.

It takes a powerful locomotive, drawing a train of ten passenger-cars, a distance of five miles to reach a speed of sixty miles an hour on a straight and level track. The air-brakes will stop the same train from a speed of sixty miles an hour in seven hundred feet. So states a widely read paper.

Indiscretion is a brake that has brought many promising men to a sudden stop. They may have spent five, ten or more years getting under good headway, and then by one act have thrown on the brakes that suddenly checked their career of respect and usefulness.

CRUEL IMPRISONMENT.

In order that they might come into possession of $150 a year annuity left a woman dwarf by her father at Olivet, France, her stepmother and half-brother made her a prisoner in a barn for twenty years before the police discovered and released her.

Small and pinched as was the dwarf, by nature and by the cruel treatment accorded her, she was no doubt a giant in character compared to those who could be so small as to imprison the unfortunate little creature under any pretext whatever. We should ever bear in mind that it is not physical stature that counts in God's sight, but heart-power and soul-growth.

MENACE TO CANADIAN FARMERS.

Herds of wild horses in northern Canada raid the ranches of settlers and stampede domestic horses, leading away into the wilderness numbers of high-bred animals. So serious did this condition become that the Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Alberta applied to the Dominion Government for aid in stopping the depredations.

We approve of such action, of course, but it is sad to reflect that many fathers seem more thoughtful in regard to the protection of their blooded horses or other animals than in the

protection of their sons and daughters from the dangers on the streets of our towns and cities.

HAD MONEY IN BANKS.

While the body of a humble piano-tuner was being prepared for burial at Kokomo, Indiana, the undertaker found in the pockets of the dead man certificates of deposit in different banks in the State, amounting to over $12,000, besides $385 in cash.

There may be some one in your neighborhood, living in humble circumstances, whom the world does not rate as a person of much worth, and yet, when he passes away, the men, women and children who knew him best will come forth with tender words of commendation for his many little, kind, helpful acts, which will be as certificates of deposit in their memories.

ODD CASE OF SURGERY.

Because he was born with a split palate and could not talk without singing, a boy in New York City underwent the painful ordeal of having his palate sewed together. Before the operation his voice often sounded so musical that strangers stopped to listen, at times greatly embarrassing him.

This suggests the question: Wouldn't it be well for each person to examine his tongue to ascertain if it is in any way attracting undue attention—if our words are too harsh, stern, peevish or faultfinding—and, if so, to promptly set about remedying the annoyance by resolving to permit the tongue to speak only in kind, tender, helpful tones. There is character in the voice.

HOW MARBLES ARE MADE.

The Chicago *Herald* says marbles are made in large quantities in Saxony, from a hard, calcareous stone, which is broken into square blocks. These are thrown into a mill, in which is a flat slab of stone with numerous concentric furrows on its face. A block of oak of the same diameter is made to revolve on the

slab, while water flows upon it. One mill turns out twenty thousand marbles a week.

"As marbles are made by getting the rough corners rubbed off, so boys are made in much the same way," comments the New York *Observer*. "Poverty, adversity, hard times and hard fare all have their place in rounding out men and fitting them for usefulness here and for glory hereafter."

A POOR EXCHANGE.

The owner of some fine fowls in Smyrna, Delaware, according to the papers, found a purse in his chicken-house containing $90, after discovering that a number of hens had been stolen during the night. It was supposed the thief accidentally dropped the money, his loss being far more than the value of the few biddies he appropriated.

In seeking pleasure in questionable places, tens of thousands of young men have lost something many times more valuable than the supposed pleasures they have obtained. Nothing that may come into one's life can compare in joy-producing value with a good character and a clear conscience.

THE STRAIGHT LINE.

One of the big railroad corporations expended several million dollars in making a short cut across the Great Salt Lake, and counted the money well spent. Others have used millions in tunneling mountains for the same purpose. The one thing of great importance with railroad builders is to get the track as straight as possible. *They know it pays.*

The young man who determines to follow a straight course of conduct, regardless of what others may think or say, will find himself in demand, while those who are willing to turn aside from the path of truth and honor, be it ever so little, will later discover they have made a serious mistake. *The straight line pays.*

WHERE HIGH BUILDINGS STAND.

Commenting upon the sky-scrapers of American cities, and the comparatively small amount of land in its greatest centers of population, a British paper says: "Indeed, land is now so expensive in New York that it would not pay to put up any ordinary edifice."

Of more value than any land is the soul of man, and we have so little time here for its development. Every moment is golden with opportunities for character-building. The foundation upon which we build—the sacrifice of Christ our Saviour—costs far too much for us to be satisfied with a cheap structure. We should build high, reaching by faith into the pure blue of heaven.

WHERE FREAKS ARE SCARCE.

Rev. Francis E. Clark, founder of the Christian Endeavor movement, says: "I am more or less acquainted with ten thousand young men and women belonging to Christian Endeavor societies throughout the world, and can say with all positiveness that the proportion of freaks and 'mollycoddles' whom I know among these young men is less than in any other walk of life. You will find more in the college classes, in business circles and in the professions, in proportion, than among the active workers in the churches. One reason is that it requires courage and devotion to the right to take the stand, and only those who have moral stamina as well as intellectual strength are likely to prove equal to the test."

SURPRISED INDIANS.

A band of Apaches once captured the safe of the army paymaster in the West, which contained $7,000 in greenbacks. It weighed four hundred pounds and worked with a combination. The red men knew nothing of this, and sought to open it by force—pounded off the knob with stones, struck the safe with their tomahawks, roasted it in fire, threw boulders at it, hurled

it down a precipice and finally threw it into a river. Having endeavored for a month to get at its contents, without success, they gave up in disgust. Over a year later, when peace was restored, Government officials recovered the safe. While the exterior showed the rough treatment it had received, when opened the money was found secure, as if nothing had happened.

The heart given to God is secure from every assault.

POWER OF A THOUGHT.

It is important to *think straight.* It was once said of a certain politician that "if you should drive a piece of wire through his head from front to back, it would come out in the shape of a corkscrew," because he had become so crooked in his thinking. "The thoughts of to-day become the dreams of to-night, the actions of to-morrow and the character of the future."

Newton H. Riddell says, in one of his books: "In talking with many convicts who had nothing to conceal, I have learned that crime often begins with an evil suggestion; the suggestion repeated finally becomes embodied in nerve cells, which form the physical basis of crime. Thus, what at first is only an evil thought or desire, by being entertained and persisted in, becomes an integral part of the man, a controlling factor in life and conduct."

MOTHER OF A TON OF CHILDREN.

Perhaps you have seen reports of families having twenty, twenty-five or thirty children. A woman in Washington made the claim that she was the mother of one of the largest families in the Northwest, although she had only ten children. Upon investigation, it was found that in one way she was correct, as the total weight of the ten was over a ton—2,085 pounds. One, a son of twenty, weighed 295 pounds, and three others weighed about 245 pounds each.

The best grounds for pride upon the part of parents is not in the number or the size of the children they raise, but the kind. One son or daughter whose every influence in life is ennobling and uplifting is far more creditable to father and mother than ten or fifteen children who live on a low, selfish plane.

THE WHISTLE OF THE BLIND.

It is said there are so many blind people in Japan that if they should employ a child or a dog to lead them, there would be numerous collisions in the narrow streets, hence each carries a whistle, which they blow as they pass along. The frequent sound of the "blind whistle" is a constant reminder of the affliction of a large number of persons there. The people who hear it separate and make room for them.

In every large city are evidences of other kinds of blindness. Every clinking sound floating out through the swinging saloon-door; every oath from the lips of men and women; every laugh at an unclean story; every cry of the newsboys telling of some crime committed—these, and other sounds of the city streets, are signals indicating the presence of the morally and spiritually blind.

DESK OF MANY WOODS.

Covering a period of over thirty years, an Indiana man gathered 250 different kinds of wood from many lands, from which he made a remarkable desk, in mosaics, containing over fifty thousand pieces. He secured the wood by travel and through friends. In speaking of his achievement, he said: "I did not realize the pleasure it would give me until I was well along with the work."

Thus it is with the building of a strong character. It is not made in a day, a month or a year. The material comes from many sources—bits of influence from here and there. It is for us to use and shape them into a beautiful, harmonious whole. Like the builder of the wonderful desk, many do not realize

the great pleasure of the undertaking until well along with the work, when the joy of it becomes simply fascinating.

HIS TRAINER'S ADVICE.

George Horine, a student at Stanford University, who broke the world's record for a high jump in 1912, had made a good jump that day, and, being in splendid condition, decided to try for the championship. He was about to have the pole placed a couple of inches higher than his first effort, when his veteran trainer, "Dad" Moulton, said: "Don't do that, George. Put the bar six feet six inches, and go after it right away. Don't tire yourself out jumping up to it."

George followed the advice, and cleared the bar, with two inches to spare, breaking the world's record of six feet five and five-eighths inches, made by M. F. Sweeney at Manhattan Field, New York, in 1895.

Moulton's advice is good for every one. Whatever you wish to accomplish in life, go after it. Don't wear yourself out "jumping up to it." Above everything else does his advice apply to character-building. Don't try to "work up to it" by gradually putting away objectionable habits. *Make the short cut.* Right now set the standard for your conduct. Let each effort be your best—and you will win.

POLICE THROW WEAPONS AWAY.

Twice a year the police of New York City dispose of the weapons found on criminals by the simple process of taking the murderous tools down the harbor in a boat, then casting them into the deep water. At one such housecleaning, weapons valued at $5,000 were thrown overboard, including more than a thousand revolvers, besides a number of shotguns and rifles, several hundred dirks and stilettos and a lot of burglars' tools.

Be your own policeman. Not twice a year, once a month or each week, but *every day,* throw away the worse than useless

things you find crowding themselves upon you. In doing this, however, you need some weapons. Gird your loins with truth. Put on the breastplate of righteousness. See that your feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Take up the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and "the *sword of the Spirit*, which is the word of God."

SUES FOR SEVEN CENTS.

With a suit of $5,000,000 pending against a railway corporation, a Chicago man found time to also bring suit against a newsboy for *seven cents*, claiming that, while the lad had agreed to deliver papers to him every morning at seventy cents a month, he had missed one of the Sunday issues. "And, besides," said the man of big affairs, "there were only twenty-eight days in February, and you owe me seven cents." The boy refused to remit, and the suit was the result.

The real character of persons possessing an abundance is not seen so much in the way they handle large affairs as in the manner they treat the poor and helpless.

"If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province," we read in the fifth chapter of Ecclesiastes, "marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they."

THE BEST SECURITY.

"Mister, do you loan money here?" asked a twelve-year-old boy at an attorney's office, says a St. Louis paper. "Sometimes we do—on good security," replied the lawyer as he confronted a clear-eyed but poorly dressed lad. The little fellow explained that he had a chance to "buy out a boy that's sellin' papers," but had only part enough money, and needed fifteen cents more. "What security can you offer?" asked the man. The boy's brown hand brought from a pocket a paper, carefully folded in a piece of calico. It was a pledge against the use of intoxicating liquor

and tobacco. As respectfully as if it had been a deed to a farm, the lawyer examined it, accepted it and handed over the required sum. To a friend who had watched the transaction and laughed as the young borrower departed, the attorney said earnestly: "The one who keeps himself from such things has *character* to offer as security."

THE CONQUEROR.

Two boys were in a schoolroom together and exploded some fireworks. One denied it. The other, Ben Christie, would say nothing, and was severely flogged for his obstinacy. When they were alone again, the real offender asked: "Why didn't you deny it?"

"Because you said you didn't, and one of us must have lied."

The other's heart melted. Ben's moral gallantry subdued him. When school reassembled he marched to the teacher's desk and said: "Please, sir, I can't bear to be a liar. I let off the squib." And he burst into tears. The master's eyes glistened, and the undeserved punishment he had inflicted on the innocent boy smote his conscience. Hand in hand with the guilty one, as if they were both joined in the confession, he walked to where young Christie sat, and said aloud: "Ben, lad, he and I beg your pardon. We are both to blame."

The school was hushed and still for an instant, for an act true and noble had been done. Then the loud shout of the scholars filled the teacher's eyes with something behind his spectacles which made him wipe them before he sat down again.—*Sunday School Advocate.*

TRIBUTE OF A FATHER.

One of the most remarkable tributes of modern times is that paid by Chas. G. Dawes to the character of his son, Rufus Fearing Dawes, who was drowned in Lake Geneva. The father was formerly Comptroller of the Currency under President

Cleveland, and later president of the Central Trust Company of Illinois.

The tribute which he wrote was read by the officiating minister at the young man's funeral, and afterwards published in booklet form. Although Rufus Dawes was preparing for a business career, he early in life took great interest in Christian and philanthropic work, of his own accord accepting Christ as his Leader and Saviour. While in college he also took keen interest in athletics and social affairs, but never lost sight of the high ideals which actuated him in every move. He had but one standard of measurement for himself or any one else—the standard of right. The father says of him:

"I have taken him with me among the greatest in the nation, and looked in vain for any evidence in him of awe or even curiosity. *He* has taken me, asking me to help them, among the poor and lowly of earth. . . . He did not smoke, nor swear, nor drink. He was absolutely clean. I never saw him angry. In twenty-one years he never gave me just cause for serious reproach. He was absolutely natural in any environment, great or humble. He was extremely ambitious. He was extremely proud. Upon one occasion, years ago, when I mistakenly reproached him, he patiently explained my error, and then peremptorily demanded and received an apology from me. . . . My boy lived long enough to 'win out.' Whatever the years would have added would be only material. In a man's character is his real career."

So great was Mr. Dawes' appreciation of his son and of his ideals that he erected a $100,000 hotel in Chicago, known as the "Rufus F. Dawes Hotel," for the worthy unemployed—the men in search of work. Here they find a welcome. For a few cents they may have food, room, bath and bed. The hotel was opened on New Year's Day, 1914, and was soon filled to its full capacity.

Thus the wonderful character of the young man who "lived in deeds, not years," is a memorial far more commendable than

the finest shaft of marble—a memorial that shall last long after the hotel and monuments have crumbled with the decay of the centuries.

LOST LIFE IN SAVING OTHERS.

Will McLaughlin, aged eighteen, a student of Ohio Wesleyan University, was visiting in Chicago at the time of the terrible Iroquois Theater disaster, December 30, 1903, when six hundred persons lost their lives. He was near the scene when the cry of "Fire! Fire!" rang out. He hastened to the fire-escape of the third story, and alone saved the lives of seventeen women and children by passing them out over a plank to an adjoining building. He worked until he himself fell under a pile of dead bodies that came tumbling down the steel stairway from above. When taken to a hospital, he raised his burned and blistered hand to one of the physicians, saying: "I'm going to die, doctor, and I'm prepared. Give your attention to the women and children." After lingering twenty-eight hours, he passed away with these words of victory on his lips—which, by the way, were later burned in the plank over which he passed those he had rescued: *"I knew I was following Christ, and I could not do otherwise."*

His name was added, also the date of the fire, the whole surrounded by scroll work. This plank—about three feet long, a foot wide and two inches thick—was sent to his parents as a memory-treasure to be prized through the lonely years. Their son was an earnest Christian, active in all religious work of the university, president of his class, prominent in athletics and a cadet in the military battalion of the school.

His uncle, the eminent Dr. Gunsaulus, who had an appointment to preach in the Iroquois Theater the day following the tragedy, and who was with Will McLaughlin when he died, wrote to the boy's father: "If my own son had perished and written his name so incontestably among those of the soldier band of Jesus Christ, I would have been proud and thankful."

Rev. Francis E. Clark, in drawing lessons from the remarkable incident, said: "No wonder that Dr. Hillis, Bishop Fallows and President Bashford, and hundreds of pulpits and newspapers, eulogized him. He did not ask for these eulogies, nor pose as a hero. He had only done his duty; 'any other would have done the same,' he declared, for the true hero is always modest. But he had his chance, and he improved it."

CHEERFULNESS.

IT NEVER WEARS OUT.

"Sing a song of laughter, a pocket full of smiles,
Is what the world is after—beats all the wiles.
Life's too short for grumpiness; spend your little while
Looking for the beautiful—wearing of the smile."

NO PLACE FOR DESPONDENCY.

It is said that during the siege of Ladysmith a soldier was sentenced by court-martial to a year's imprisonment for causing despondency. He had been talking discouragingly to the pickets and other soldiers. The critical situation demanded men full of hope and courage. Perhaps every one, at times, becomes despondent. The weakness is not in being possessed of such a feeling occasionally, but in giving up to it and spreading discouragement among others. A fear bravely met is already more than half overcome.

ORDERED TO SMILE.

The mayor of Salem, Massachusetts, called the police of that city together and informed them that they must be more courteous; that when two of them meet they must salute each other and smile. This strikes one as comical. But one would better smile to order than not at all. A sour visage is a public calamity, especially when large numbers of persons are obliged to look at it. For a railroad conductor, a station gateman, a policeman or an elevator man to wear a forbidding countenance

is almost a sin. His face amounts to assault and battery on the feelings of all spectators.—*Caleb Cobweb, in Christian Endeavor World.*

MUSIC "EN ROUTE."

In the Middle West, a wholesale firm sent out two representatives on an automobile trip of twenty thousand miles to advertise its goods. The machine was provided with ten pipes, called the "Gabriel chimes," upon which could be played any tune. One of the men "talked up the goods," while the other furnished musical selections *en route,* and where stops were made.

In the days when all sorts of odd sounds were used by automobilists as warning signals, a machine in one of the great Western cities was equipped with an attachment upon which the chauffeur played, "Nearer, My God, to Thee," as he sped along the thoroughfares. Pedestrians were seldom in too much of a hurry to stop, gaze and eagerly listen until the sacred melody died out in the distance.

"Sing some happy song" as you pass along life's pathway. It will not only brighten your own journey, but will surely "make some other heart rejoice" as well.

RAISING SUNFLOWERS.

A Missouri farmer raised nearly one hundred acres of sunflowers on land where other crops would not thrive, and cleared about $40 an acre. This so encouraged him that he decided to put in a thousand acres the following season. Imagine the beauty of a hundred, or a thousand, acres of the bright, blossoming, smiling, tossing flowers, each one a miniature picture of the great sun in the heavens.

We should never consider any one around us as "useless." Let's sow the seeds of kindness "all along the way." Like the Missouri farmer, we will be agreeably surprised. In place of apparently worthless lives will be happiness, joy, sunshine, all

reflecting upon the sower, thus also adding to his own enjoyment of life.

BETTER THAN A DOCTOR.

An Oakland paper tells of an aged patient, Mrs. Anne McCann, who is known as the philosopher of the county infirmary. She has been there several years, and moves about slowly on crutches. "The remarkable thing about her is her smile, for it stays, no matter how ill she may be or how intense her suffering. 'Of course age is hard on teeth,' she says. 'The few I have, though, meet all right, so I'm not worrying about that. No, it doesn't make you feel any better to smile when you're sick, but think how much better people will think you feel. Fool them, even if you can't fool yourself, for they'll feel better then.'" One of the doctors there says: "She does some of the patients more good than I can, for she makes them smile. Optimism is sometimes the best prescription we can administer."

The optimism of Paul under most trying circumstances has given courage to many thousands of the followers of Christ, for it was the great apostle who said: "I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses, *for Christ's sake.*"

STRENGTH WITHIN.

The "rain-tree" of Colombia absorbs large quantities of moisture from the atmosphere, which it concentrates and sends forth from its leaves and branches in such abundance that the ground beneath is frequently drenched as with a refreshing rain. It possesses this peculiar property to its greatest degree in the summer, thus preserving its strength and freshness when water is the most scarce.

It is refreshing to meet those rare souls who, in spite of "hard times" and unfavorable circumstances, extract comfort and joy from nearly everything around them. This not only preserves their own strength, but begets in others a spirit of good cheer.

CHILDHOOD.

FUTURE CITIZENS.

God bless the little children, wherever they may be—
Far away in the country, down by the sounding sea.
Like flowers in the crowded city, like birds in the forest free;
God bless the little children, wherever they may be.

God bless the little children, for yet we do not see
What good men, what great men, these little ones may be—
What preachers and what poets, what men of noble mind;
What true and loving women, what wives and mothers kind.

—*Selected.*

SHAPING CHARACTER.

I found a bit of plastic clay,
And idly fashioned it one day,
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It moved and yielded to my will.

I came again when days had passed,
The bit of clay was hard at last.
The form I gave it still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay,
And gently formed it day by day,
And molded with my power and art
A young child's soft and yielding heart.

I came again when years were gone—
It was a man I looked upon.
He still that early impress wore,
And I could change him nevermore.

—*Unknown.*

BABY CAUSES REPENTANCE.

An incident, showing the power of the touch of baby fingers over a hard-hearted husband, is told by Ida M. Tarbell in the *American Magazine,* being one of many in the Court of Domestic Relations in Chicago:

"Nine times out of ten, Judge Goodnow declares, you can arouse a man to remorse or effort by his child. 'Take that baby; it is too heavy for the mother,' he said suddenly one day to a big, ugly, red-haired driver who had been brought in for non-support,

and who stood before the bar unmoved by the story of his wife and the reproaches of the judge. The man turned, and the little one, crowing and kicking with delight to be noticed by him, stretched out its arms. It cuddled up to the man, patting his face and cooing with joy. He broke down in a moment, and, every trace of bravado gone, burst out: 'For God's sake, Judge, let me go back to my babies! I swear I'll do the square thing!' And, so far as the record of the court goes, he has kept his word."

MILLIONAIRE'S GREAT WORK.

One day in 1869 a ten-year-old boy saw his widowed mother, who had eight children to support, bending over a wash-tub, with tears dropping from her cheeks into the hot suds. "Never you mind, mamma," said he, tenderly, "when I get a big man and rich, I'll take care of all the orphans, and the widows too."

That boy became the millionaire oil king, Charles Page, owner of seven thousand acres of land seven miles from Tulsa, Oklahoma. Although his mother died years before his wealth came to him, he did not forget his promise to her. One of his first moves was to make eighty acres of his forest land, on the banks of the Arkansas River, into one of the most complete parks and playgrounds in America, with an interurban railroad owned by him connecting it with Tulsa, and free transportation to and from the park for all the children who cared to go, any day in the week. He also built an orphanage for seventy children adopted by him, his whole plan being the erection of homes for one thousand orphans, and one hundred homes for as many widows; also a magnificent hospital for the free treatment of the poor from any part of the country, including railroad fare, if necessary. He has the work so abundantly endowed that it will never lack for funds. Thus the tears of his mother, precious to him as a boy, resulted in establishing one of the most far-reaching systems of charity the world has ever known.

CONSISTENCY.

MISSED THE LECTURE.

"Why weren't you at the club meeting to-day?" inquired one woman of another. "We had a most instructive lecture on the training of children."

"Because," replied Mrs. Hadley, the mother of seven boys and girls, "I was at home doing it."

"ONLY THE CHILDREN."

In too many homes the following story from *Zion's Advocate* might strike so near the truth as to hurt:

Policeman—Do you have to take care of the dog?

New Girl—No. The missus says I'm too young and inexperienced. I only look after the children.

WHY HE COULDN'T.

Some persons who desire certain questionable results insist that others must take the position of greatest blame. "I am shocked," said a mother to her boy, according to a Chicago paper, "that Willie Smith whipped the poor cat. You wouldn't do such a thing, I know. Why didn't you stop him?"

"I couldn't, ma. I was holding the cat."

IN A POSITION TO WARN.

After making over half a million dollars in the wholesale liquor business, a Pittsburgh man stipulated in his will that no idle, intemperate, wayward or vicious child should become a beneficiary. He also directed that any beneficiary engaging in the liquor trade should forfeit all claims or rights to his estate.

He evidently knew the evils of the business as but few on the outside could know, hence was in a position to realize the importance of keeping clear of it. We do well to heed the warnings of those who tell of the dangers of that with which they have had most to do.

TWO INTERPRETATIONS.

While the minister meant well, his remark was subject to two interpretations when he said, in preaching a funeral sermon:

"Dear friends, the corpse here before us was a member of this church for over twenty years."

Many churches know what it is to have a lot of dead material on the membership roll.

THEIR LITTLE QUARREL.

"Live up to what you profess to be," is good advice. "Be a good representative of your own business," is also worth heeding. Two boys were quarreling, when Frank spoke to Horace rather contemptuously:

"*You,* wearing old, sloppy shoes, and your father a shoemaker too!"

"That's nothing," retorted the other, "your pop's a dentist, and your little baby brother's only got one tooth!"

SATAN'S BEST AGENTS.

One who sins only a very little may be much more dangerous to others than one who sins a great deal. A little tolerated sin in the apostle Paul would have been a greater menace to the church and the world than was the gross sin of Judas Iscariot. A clock that is five minutes out of the way is a much more misleading timepiece than a clock that is five hours wrong.—*Sunday School Times.*

REMARKABLE INDICATOR.

In one of the sky-scrapers of New York is a "central" office for keeping "tab" on the location of the many elevators used. In this room is an indicator in the shape of the building itself, and as the elevators pass up or down, little glow-lamps respond to the movement, showing the exact position of each. By means of telephone connection with every elevator it is possible to

promptly ascertain the cause of any delay. Should a tricky operator answer that he was with his elevator on the twenty-third floor, helping to get a blind cripple into the cage, while his glow-light showed he was at the forty-fifth, where a pretty stenographer was in the habit of coming out to chat with him between dictations, his deception would be promptly discovered.

It is useless to expect people to judge us by what we say unless the light of our conduct corresponds with our words.

LOOKING STRAIGHT AHEAD.

Referring to the fact that in some portraits the eyes always appear to be looking at you, a writer in a London publication says: "To produce such an effect, the eyes of the person represented must be looking directly to the front, and not towards one side. In such instances the pupil of each eye is necessarily in the middle. Obviously this relation does not vary at all with the position assumed by the observer."

You can usually rely upon the person who looks you in the eye. Figuratively speaking, he is "looking straight ahead." He is the same to everybody, regardless of the point of vision from which they may behold him.

CONSCIENCE.

SAFE IN TIME OF STORM.

Because of the efficiency of the United States Weather Bureau, in just one instance, vessels valued, with their cargoes, at more than $30,000,000 have been kept safe in port until a terrific hurricane had spent its force. The warning issued of a single cold wave is said to have saved over $3,000,000 worth of fruits and farm products.

When conscience warns us of the impending storms of passion, jealousy, temper or appetite, we should remain safe in the port of "Firm Resolve for the Right."

WANTED TO BE SURE.

"How will I know when I'm naughty?" a little girl asked, after receiving quite a lecture.

"Why, my dear," said the mother, "your conscience will tell you."

Margaret thought a moment, then said: "That's all right; but it won't tell you, will it?"—*Lippincott's Magazine.*

THE BEST PRIZE POSSIBLE.

The Y. M. C. A. boys from many Associations who participated in the great relay race in July, 1908, carried the following significant message from one mayor to another: "To the city of Chicago the city of New York sends greeting by the fleet runners of the Young Men's Christian Association. This message is borne on foot without a halt from the Atlantic to Lake Michigan, and the hundreds of boys who carry it gain no prize except the consciousness of having done their best."

A WATCH FOR THE DARK.

Swiss watchmakers have devised a phosphorescent preparation for dials, by means of which the faces of watches are illuminated in darkness, and become visible at the ordinary distance. Every few days, however, the watch must be exposed to sunlight, or the phosphorescence fails and the time can no longer be ascertained. So conscience is an illuminated dial to be eagerly scanned in dark and perplexing days; but it gives clear and true direction only while it is often shone upon by the light of heaven.—*Education of the Heart.*

WHY HE DIDN'T WORRY.

During the Civil War a young man was arrested on suspicion of being a spy. In vain he calmly protested his innocence. At the hearing of his case the men who had taken him in charge were astonished to find that he was not only a loyal soldier, but

a personal friend of the superior officer before whom he was tried. When asked later if he was not alarmed after his arrest, the young man replied: "No, for I knew I was innocent, and that my friend would not allow any harm to come to me."

HIS BRIGHTEST JEWEL.

After winning certain victories for the Crown, Marlborough, a distinguished general of early English days, was offered a lot of medals, studded with diamonds, which he declined, saying:

"What I accomplished, it was my duty to do. Had I failed, it would not have been through any lack of loyalty in my heart to England. Jewels can add nothing to my reputation. I appreciate their being tendered, but the best jewel I can wear is the consciousness within my own heart that I tried to do my best."

SIX DAYS FOR LABOR.

When the directors of one of the great railroad corporations met one Sunday morning in a hotel in Chicago, and sent word to Mr. Charles G. Hammond, the superintendent of the road, that his presence was required, he sent back word by their messenger: "Six days in the week I serve the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, but the seventh is the Sabbath of the Lord my God, and on that day I serve him only." Instead of discharging him, the directors were sensible enough to see that in Mr. Hammond they had a man who was simply invaluable.—*Sunday School Journal.*

SHIP SAVED BY AN ECHO.

The echo of the fog-horn on the British steamship "Isle of Mull," which had been sounded shortly after midnight on Newfoundland Banks, once saved the vessel from collision with an iceberg, which had caused the echo. When the captain heard it, he immediately stopped his ship, and soon discovered his dangerous position. He quickly headed southward and to safety.

The echo of conscience coming back from the icebergs of

sin, toward which the mind sometimes goes out, should always call a halt, and a steerage in the direction of safety.

STEEPLE APPEARS TWISTED.

"In Chesterfield, England," a magazine states, "is a church with a spire which, from any point of view, appears to be dangerously crooked. A spiral construction was adopted, and this makes it appear bent. In reality it is plumb."

Those in a position to know never think of calling the spire crooked. If we are ever placed where circumstances appear to be against us, and people who don't know suspect us of wrong —of being "crooked"—let's remember there is One who knows. "The Lord seeth not as man seeth," we read in 1 Sam. 16:7, "for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

PROTECTING AN OIL WELL.

During the days of internal strife in Mexico, a solid concrete cap, fifteen feet square and extending about the same distance above and below the surface of the ground, was built over a highly productive Mexican oil well, on the top of which was mounted a cross. Because of the deep reverence the Mexicans have for objects associated with religion, this was considered as affording better protection than the physical strength of the great concrete cap.

If properly appealed to, the religious conscience of man will almost invariably prove more effectual in restraint of evil than any physical force that might be used. When you touch the heart you touch the mainspring of right conduct.

REMARKABLE VINDICATION.

We do wrong to suspect any one of an act not clearly proven, it matters not how strong the circumstantial evidence may appear. Hundreds of instances have come to light in prisons where the innocent have been punished for the crimes of others.

After living thirty years under the suspicion of having robbed the post-office at Peoria, Illinois, of a registered package containing $3,500, a well-known minister was vindicated in a peculiar manner. In the repair-shop of the San Francisco post-office an old mail-pouch was brought forth to be fixed. Down in the bottom, under a piece of patchwork, was the package with the $3,500 totally undisturbed. All those years the minister had protested his innocence. Vindication was slow, but it came at last.

NOT A FLAW WAS FOUND.

Washington's work as surveyor in the Virginia wilderness for Lord Fairfax, in 1751, was checked up in 1913 by Government surveyors, preparatory to the purchase of lands in that territory for the Appalachian forest reserve. They found the lines perfect, and thus, after the lapse of more than a century and a half, it is shown that Washington, with the most primitive equipment, left landmarks and boundaries which the most expert modern surveyors have found absolutely correct. Truly he was a man who believed in doing his best.

Whatever your occupation, resolve to do your work so well that coming generations may know you did your best; that your boundary-lines of conduct were absolutely true, and that the landmarks of your successes measured square with every principle of honor.

GOD SEES THE HEART.

Carl Cheney traveled one thousand miles to confess the theft and forgery of a post-office money-order, surrendering himself to the Federal authorities in Chicago, after traveling twenty thousand miles to escape the consequences of his act, committed a year before. His conscience gave him no peace during all that time.

The defaulting treasurer of a New York county, who had stolen $260,000 of the people's money, kept his crime a secret for years, but it was finally revealed. After his arrest he

remarked he had not been so happy for a long time, because of lifting the burden of a guilty conscience.

"If our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then we have confidence toward God," we read in 1 John 3:20, 21.

BIG ROBBERY RECALLED.

A secret-service man, writing for *Bank Notes,* says the greatest of all bank robberies was that of the National Bank at Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1876, where nearly $1,500,000 was carried away at daybreak, and later buried in a coffin in Greenwood Cemetery in New York City. The men who committed this robbery spent three years in planning it. Notwithstanding their great care and precaution, they were all finally captured and punished, except one who turned state's evidence. Practically all of the money was recovered, the whole deal requiring several years. The writer concludes his article thus: "Every bank robber I have ever known either died poor or in prison."

The conscience of even hardened criminals has been the cause of many confessions of crime. "Shall not God search this out? For he knoweth the secrets of the heart," we read in Ps. 44:21. Again, in Luke 12:2: "For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known."

SUCCESS WITH A STING.

The chief of police of one of the largest cities in Ohio related that after he had arrested a prominent man for embezzling large sums of money from people who trusted him, later making a confession, he asked him how he started on such a career. He replied that when appointed as first assistant cashier in a bank he was ambitious to be promoted, and continued: "The man who held the position above me was old, and had been with the institution a long time. One day he made an uninten-

tional blunder. It was clearly my duty to point out the mistake to him, but instead, in a sneaking way, I had the information conveyed to the officers and directors. Despite all his honest explanations, he lost his position, and I was appointed to take his place. At first I was supremely happy, but as the days passed, the face of the old cashier, his grief and unwarranted shame which had been inflicted upon him by me, impressed itself deeper and deeper upon my memory. Instead of doing all I could to make amends, I hardened my heart, and went from bad to worse. Since the day I ruined his life I have not known one moment of peace or happiness."

CONVERSION.

HIS PROUDEST NIGHT.

An engineer who was converted at Grant's Pass, Oregon, while waiting at the depot for his train to depart, later came back into one of the cars at a junction and said to the evangelist who had urged him to take his stand for Christ: "I have drawn two Presidents over this road—Grant and Roosevelt—but this is the first time I have had Jesus Christ with me as a Saviour, and it is the proudest night of my life."—*Adult Bible Class Monthly.*

PRESENT-DAY MIRACLES.

Valentine Burke was a burglar and a thief for twenty years. His face was hardened and sin-blurred. He was converted while reading one of Mr. Moody's sermons when in prison. He prayed God to change his looks so he could get an honest job. His prayer was answered. Some time thereafter, when Moody was passing through St. Louis, he hunted up the man, and found him in the courthouse, the trusted guard over a bag of diamonds worth $60,000. Later he became an evangelist, and hundreds of hardened men were turned from lives of crime and shame.—*Mrs. E. George.*

DEFYING THE TEMPTER.

One of Mr. Moody's favorite stories was about a miser who had professed conversion. Soon after this a neighbor in distress came to him for help. The miser decided to give him a ham, and while on his way to get it the tempter whispered, "Give him the smallest one." During the mental struggle that followed, the man took down the largest ham he had. "You are a fool," said the devil, whereupon the farmer replied with spirit, "If you don't keep still, I'll give him every ham in the smokehouse!"

Thus he conquered the tempter, and knew that his conversion was not to be doubted.

THE ILLUSION VANISHED.

These wonderful words are from Professor Hegard, of the University of Copenhagen: "The experiences of life, its sufferings and grief, have shaken my soul and have broken the foundation upon which I formerly thought I could build. Full of faith in the sufficiency of science, I thought to have found in it a sure refuge from all the contingencies of life. This illusion is vanished. When the tempest came which plunged me in sorrow, the moorings, the cables of science, broke like thread. Then I seized upon that help which many before me have laid hold of. I sought and found peace in God. Since then I have certainly not abandoned science, but have assigned to it another place in my life."

WHEN HE SURRENDERED.

The conversion of Ex-Gov. Malcom R. Patterson, of Tennessee, in 1913, created nation-wide comment, and spread consternation in the ranks of the liquor men, whose friend he had been for years, in support of their business. In describing the spiritual change he had experienced, he said:

"My life has had deep sorrows. I have seen the trail of liquor everywhere, dragging down many of the associates of

my boyhood, blasting their hopes and consigning them to untimely graves. I have seen its forked lightning strike my first-born, the child of my young manhood. I have felt its foul and stealthy blow as it turned upon me its deadly and shaming wrath—upon me who had pleaded before the people for its very existence. I needed help, for I was groping and my feet were stumbling in the dark. . . . When logic failed and reason gave no answer I cast aside all pride of opinion, all thought of what the world might say or think, and went to the throne of almighty God. There, on bended knee, I asked for light and strength, and they came. I arose a changed man. From a critic of others, I looked within. From a vague believer in the guidance of divine power, I have become a convert to its divine truth. From an unhappy and dissatisfied man, out of tune with the harmony of life and religion, I have become happy and content, firmly anchored in faith, and ready to testify from my own experience to the miraculous power of God to cleanse the souls of men."

COURAGE.

WHEN THE SOUL IS FREE.

Samuel Rutherford, while in Aberdeen prison, used to write at the top of his letters, "God's Palace, Aberdeen." When Madame Guyon was imprisoned in the castle at Vincennes she said: "It seems as if I were a little bird whom the Lord has placed in a cage, and that I have nothing now to do but sing." —*R. P. Anderson.*

WHY IT WAS PRIZED.

The letter written by Gen. U. S. Grant to his father, in which he announced his determination to enlist in the Union Army at the breaking out of the Civil War, was sold in New York in January, 1914, for the sum of $910.

Whether it be a written purpose or one orally expressed, the

world values the decision of any one who determines to enlist in life's conflict of "the right against the wrong, for the weak against the strong." Numerous battles of this kind to-day call for courage equal to the facing of shot and shell.

THE NEED OF SAND.

To overcome the "slipping and skidding of automobiles on slippery city pavements," sand-boxes have been provided.

Many a boy has found the city pavements very slippery. The one with plenty of grit, or "sand," will promptly say *"No"* to every temptation, while the fellow who wavers will find himself constantly "slipping and skidding" to his ruin.

SONG OF THE FIGHT.

Fear never won a conquest yet,
  Nor overcame a foe;
'Tis Courage scales the parapet,
  While cowards flee below.
When Duty calls, be quick with "Yes";
  Aspire and serve and pray,
And know no language but success,
  No future but to-day!

—*Frederick Lawrence Knowles.*

EVERY MAN WAS WILLING.

True heroism is in *being ready* to act bravely, whether the opportunity ever comes or not.

Fire was once discovered in the coal bunkers of one of the great warships of the United States. It had crept up to the powder magazines, and if an explosion was to be avoided, eighty tons of hot shells and powder-boxes must be carried out as speedily as possible. Nine of the crew entered the magazines and removed the explosives, endangering their lives, but saving the ship. One of the men, when asked about it afterward, replied: "Please do not make us heroes, when all of the two hundred aboard would have done the same thing if we hadn't beaten them to it."

THE BOY'S CLEVER RETORT.

A business man of New York City, who became a staunch supporter of the church, went one evening during his boyhood with a friend to the latter's club, where a group of men were playing cards for money. When they were invited to join in the game, the youth refused, whereupon a famous military man, who was participating in the gambling, sneeringly said: "Perhaps your mother doesn't know you are out." The boy's face reddened with a blush of indignation as he retorted:

"Yes, she knows it, sir, and she supposes I'm in the company of gentlemen. Seeing I'm not, I'll go home to her."

Every true-hearted boy would do well to keep in mind this fine example of courage.

HE STOPPED THE RACES.

One Sunday in August, 1912, seven thousand people assembled at the race-track in Canton, Ohio, to witness the weekly automobile contest. Sheriff Oberlin, who had been appealed to by the Canton Christian Endeavor Union to enforce the law, did so by arresting the promoters and stopping the races. As he left the track many shouted, in effect: "We'll see if Christian Endeavorers can elect you this fall!"

The challenge was accepted. The fight was carried to the polls. Notwithstanding there was a landslide for the political party opposing the candidates of his party, Mr. Oberlin was elected by the largest majority given any candidate in the county.

"They that forsake the law praise the wicked; but such as keep the law contend with them" (Prov. 28:4).

INTERPRETING STEAM.

An engineer, so the story goes, had a long, heavily loaded train to be hauled over the mountains, and walked out to the roundhouse where a number of locomotives were "steaming up." Stepping up to the largest, he asked the massive thing if

it could pull the train. "I-*don't*-think-I-*can*, I-*don't*-think-I-*can*," it seemed to say slowly, over and over. He went to a smaller one with the same question. "I-*think*-I-*can*, I-*think*-I-*can*, I-*think*-I-*can*," it appeared to cheerily say, as if anxious for the opportunity to prove its assertion. The engineer took the sprightly, self-confident locomotive at its word, and all the way up the long hill it kept saying: "I-*think*-I-*can*, I-*think*-I-*can*, I-*think*-I-*can*," and finally reached the top. Going down the slope on the other side, it sang its song of victory: "I-*thought*-I-*could*, I-*thought*-I-*could*, I-*thought*-I-*could*," with ever-increasing speed.

"I-*don't*-think-I-*can*" never won a victory.

ORDERED THE KAISER.

The German Emperor, impatient because the speed of his yacht was slowed down on entering a certain harbor in Norway, persisted in asserting his authority by ringing the bell for "full speed ahead," says the *Weekly Telegraph.*

To his great surprise, the pilot, an old Norwegian named Nordhums, who knew the dangers of the channel, promptly countermanded the order, and finally thundered to the Emperor, "Leave the bridge!" With this he grasped the wheel more firmly, and continued: "This craft is under my charge, and I'll have no interference from Emperor or seaman."

Nordhums stood calmly at his post and steered the yacht safely into port. The next day the ruler, who had recovered his good humor, decorated the man with one of the German orders, and also appointed him his pilot for life in Norwegian waters.

ONE ABOVE THE KING.

Hans Von Zieten was a brave general under Frederick the Great, and a Christian. On one occasion, when dining at the palace, the infidel king made some profane expression about the Lord's Supper, and the other guests laughed at his remarks. The general arose and said with a firm voice:

"Your Majesty knows that in war I have never feared any danger, and have been willing to give my life for you and my country. But there is One above us who is greater than you. He is the Saviour and Redeemer of men. In him is my hope in life and death. In the power of this faith your brave army has fought and conquered. If your Majesty undermines this faith, you undermine the welfare of the state."

This bold confession made such a powerful impression on the king that he dismissed his guests, invited the general into his cabinet, and declared that he wished such a faith was his also.—*Cook.*

ATHLETE WHO WAS BRAVE.

Four young men, clerks and students, while on a summer vacation tramp through northern New England, engaged an athlete named Forrest Leo Graves to act as guide to a certain waterfall. At lunch, one of the party invited him to drink from a flask he produced. "No, sir, thank you," said Forrest, courteously. The other insisted, finally springing toward him, remarking: "Now you are bound to try my brandy! I always rule!"

"You can't rule me," was the courageous reply. With this the young guide seized the flask and hurled it into the stream. Then a clear, defiant tone rang out:

"I did it in self-defense! You had no right to tempt me. My father was once a rich and honorable man, but he died a miserable drunkard, and my mother came here to live to keep me away from liquor until I should be old enough to take care of myself. I have promised her a hundred times I wouldn't taste it, and I'd die before I'd break my promise."

The reckless one stood as if dazed, and, seeing his error, frankly apologized.—*Exchange.*

Courage of this stamp compels the admiration of even those who tempt. "Envy thou not the man of violence, and choose none of his ways," is an exhortation in the Proverbs.

COURTESY.

THE BEST REASON.

"My boy," said a father to his son, "treat everybody with politeness, even those who are rude to you; for remember that you show courtesy to others *not* because *they* are gentlemen, but because *you* are one."

WILLING TO TRY.

The conversation of children is said to be a reflex of home surroundings and teachings. It is evident this boy had absorbed a spirit of helpfulness, to say the least: In reply to the question of a lady who called to see about renting a room in the home, as to whether or not they had any rats or mice, he said kindly:

"No, ma'am, we haven't just now, but I think I could get some for you!"

HOW IT LOOKED TO PAT.

"Greet the world with a smile and it will smile back at you. Give it a frown and you will get a frown in return."

A well-dressed man, who entered an inn with a dog, was asked by an Irishman what breed it was.

"A cross between an ape and an Irishman," was the insolent reply.

"Faith, thin," retorted Pat, with characteristic good humor, "we're both related to the beast!"

THE WISH OF BOTH.

A magazine tells of a woman of Irish descent boarding a crowded street-car with a number of bundles, and making room for herself by the side of a stylishly dressed young man, who was plainly disgusted as she proceeded to eat a cheese sandwich. Observing his displeasure, she turned and said to him in a good-natured way:

"I suppose that ye'd prafer-r to have a gintleman a-sittin' next to ye?"

"I certainly would!" was the curt reply.

"So would I!" calmly replied the woman as she proceeded to devour the sandwich.

BECAUSE HE WAS KIND.

In the will of an old lady who died in Boston was provision for $10,000 as a token of remembrance to a young man who once did her just a little act of kindness. The following paragraph in the document tells the story:

"This money is bequeathed to Charlie Dawson Hendrickson because of the gentle manner in which he cared for me on a stormy day, on a Washington-street crossing in Boston. It is a slight recognition of his courtesy from one who has never forgotten."

No doubt the act was performed by him as naturally as he would breathe, for real gentleness is not characteristic of those who may be unkind in heart.

DUTY.

LOSING THEIR LIVES.

A few years ago a policeman shouted to a boy in the canal at Preston, England: "Hello! Why are you bathing there?" "I'm not," the lad shouted; "I'm drowning." Then the officer rescued him, of course. Many persons who are supposed to be having a good time in the world are really losing their lives. It is the privilege and duty of Christ's followers to rescue them.—*Living Water.*

THE IMPORTANT THING.

Francis Willard Rollins received a local preacher's license from the New Haven District of the Methodist Episcopal Church when but sixteen years of age. Prior to that time he

had preached occasionally in his father's pulpit and in neighboring towns. One paper said of him that he professed no knowledge of theology, but remarked in a straightforward, manly fashion: "I believe I know what God wants us to do, and what he'll do to us if we don't do it."

WHY ON "THE FOURTH"?

July 4, 1776, was a hot, sultry day, and the Colonial delegates to Congress were debating the advisability of ratifying the Declaration of Independence, when some one opened the windows, and in came droves of flies, says Thomas Jefferson in his writings. This unexpected annoyance seemed to hasten proceedings, else the debate might have gone over to the next day, possibly longer. Finally President Hancock seized his quill and signed the document. Rather than offer further opposition and prolong the agony, all of the other delegates quickly penned their names.

When you have a duty to perform, do not permit annoyances of any kind to deter you or cause delay. Remember that we celebrate the *fourth* of July instead of the fifth, or some later date, because the signers of the Declaration of Independence acted in the *"now."*

EFFICIENCY.

MINERS WEIGHED WITH SILVER.

Ore from a silver mine in Mexico is weighed in sacks on the backs of miners, thus saving considerable time by avoiding rehandling. The checker has the weight of each man and his equipment, so that the correct number of pounds of the ore is represented by the difference.

We say of a man that he is worth so much, meaning the value of his earthly possessions in silver and gold, but it is not true. Each person is worth only his actual "weight" in the things that count for character-building. We might carry tens

of thousands of dollars in a sack on our back, but it would not indicate our worth by as much as a single cent.

HER NAME ON A WRAPPER.

A California girl wrote her name and address on a fruit-wrapper, which eventually reached an Illinois youth. He wrote to her, she replied, correspondence continued, and two years later they were married at Kansas City. Similar results have followed the writing of names on eggs, baskets of fruit and other products, as well as in all sorts of odd places.

It isn't so important that we write our names on our work as that we impress upon it the stamp of honest, efficient service.

WHAT MAIL CLERKS DO.

Wonderful are the possibilities of the human intellect. In the railway mail service of the United States each clerk must be familiar with the location of from five to twenty thousand post-offices, and able to tell instantly where each is located, what the best railroad connections for getting mail to its destination in the least possible time, as well as many other details which can be mastered only by very retentive minds. The accuracy to which men may attain is shown by Frederick J. Haskin. He tells of one mail clerk who handled seventeen thousand cards addressed to as many post-offices, at the rate of sixty a minute, without putting a single card in the wrong pigeon-hole in the mailing-case.

Mental power justly commands admiration, but nothing so thrills the masses as to witness the highest possible development of a man's moral and spiritual power.

A NEW MAN EVERY DAY.

"Are you the same man you were yesterday? If you are, there is something wrong," writes Rev. John H. Denison, using as a text, "Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16). He says we would find

it wearisome if the same copy of a paper were handed to us every day, adding: "A man should get out a new issue of himself every day. Don't let your life get stale. It is disgusting to your friends to find you harping on the same old hobbies. . . . Throw out the grievances of the past. Get some new idea every day; something that will stimulate you to be what you have never been. Yield your life to Him who said: 'The old things are passed away; lo, I make all things new.' Do nothing that is not done in the power of His Spirit, and your life will be fresh and young, even in the day of old age and in the hour of death."

TIME SAVED IS MONEY MADE.

The biggest word in the modern business world is "efficiency." An expert saved ten per cent. of the fuel used in a great factory by having the belts of a certain shaft rearranged. Another carefully studied the movements of bricklayers, reducing the number of their motions by two-thirds.

In a large plant where many men were employed putting machines together, a moving picture was taken of the entire process. An expert studied the photographic record, piece by piece, for days, resulting in so many useless motions being dispensed with that the men were enabled to put the machines together in less than one-fourth the time formerly required. A similar experiment in a garment factory where women used sewing-machines resulted in a net increase of their product by several hundred per cent.

Important as is the matter of time-saving in the business world, it is small compared with the wise and best possible use of time in character-building; in other words, doing good. Many, who say they haven't time, would no doubt be surprised should they make a careful study of the subject, as does the business man, to find that they are not living up to their possibilities in this regard by one-half.

EGOTISM.

SUBSTITUTE SUGGESTED.

Overdone sentimentality may not always be rebuked, but it usually fails to make the desired impression. A university professor, on the eve of a two years' trip to Europe, made his farewell address to the students in distressed tones.

"Yes," said he, "this parting is very painful to me. Would that there was a window in my breast, my dear boys, that you might see the innermost recesses of my heart."

A stripling in the rear shouted back: "Professor, would a pane in the stomach do?"

WHY THE SMOKESTACK BROKE.

A new steel smokestack in an Eastern city broke just above the ring to which the guy-wires were attached for its support, during a cold spell, and toppled over to one side. It was all right for ordinary weather, but the guy-wires were not fastened high enough to enable it to stand any unusual strain.

The man who carries his head higher than the guy-ring of his mental ability will justify, may get along all right for awhile, but sooner or later his deficiency will be discovered and he will "topple over," not only in his own eyes, but likewise in the estimation of those he has deceived.

LETTERS A FOOT HIGH.

Man's desire to be remembered after death is pitiful. All sorts of things are done with this in view. A Chicago citizen leased a piece of land in a prominent part of the city to another, for ninety-nine years, at $5,000 a year, on the condition that his name, in letters a foot high, be kept on the front of all buildings erected thereon, for that length of time.

Let us learn there is no lasting peace, rest, comfort or salvation in the *name* by which we are known, but *only* in exalting

and being true to the Name that is above every name—Jesus, Saviour, Redeemer, Friend. This alone can satisfy the cravings of the human heart, and flood the soul with joy eternal.

WASTED HIS STEAM.

An egotistical engineer in a lumber-camp was discharged because on the very first morning he pulled the whistle wide open, making the welkin ring for miles around. When the foreman was ready to start the force on a big day's work he discovered there was not enough steam left to move the machinery.

Perhaps you have heard the story of the steamboat on the Mississippi, in early days, with such a big whistle that, whenever it was sounded, the boat was compelled to stop for lack of steam to go ahead.

Do not waste your time or energy relating what you have done or expect to do. Admiration is for him who is quietly doing his best.

ENVIRONMENT.

THE IRONY OF FATE.

The real significance of even the most familiar words and sayings is best understood by those who have *felt* the meaning of them. It is said that at a meeting of authors in New York, one, in telling a tale, used the expression "the irony of fate." This prompted a listener to relate a painful application of the phrase which once came to him, says *Lippincott's Magazine*. "It was when I was in San Francisco, and was nearly down and out. I received a money-order from home for forty dollars, and the only man who could identify me was one to whom I owed thirty-eight."

SENDING BEES BY MAIL.

For many years the sending of bees by mail was not only difficult, but the little creatures generally arrived at the end of their journey either dead or so nearly exhausted that they were

of but little value. Uncle Sam has many different kinds of mail-bags, one of the improved styles being known as a "bee-bag." It is so constructed that the honey-makers may obtain food and air *en route,* and arrive at their destination, even though it be thousands of miles away, in good condition.

If we would arrive safely at the soul's destination, we must have the right kind of moral and spiritual food *en route,* and live in the pure air of clean thoughts.

MEN WITH GREEN HAIR.

The information is given by a writer that men who work in the copper mines of Cuba, Chile, and other places where the ore is abundant, have green hair, due to a process of roasting the ore in monster furnaces in order to make it more marketable. It is said the fumes and gases contain a quantity of arsenical matter, thus causing the remarkable change in the color of the hair. It is the severe result of surroundings.

Associating with persons of vicious habits, coming in contact with the fumes of tobacco and liquor, and the gases of foul language, may not make a man's hair green, but it often blackens a once clean heart. It is the deplorable result of evil surroundings—of impure social atmosphere.

ETERNITY.

WONDERS OF NATURE.

James Hamilton Byrd says of the wonderful petrified forests of the Yellowstone National Park: "The visitor views no less than *fifteen* submerged forests, standing upright as they grew, *one on top of the other,* each representing a separate period of the earth's history. On the precipitate and almost vertical sides of the Yellowstone canyon, where the river has, during the ages, cut its way through the mountains to a depth of two thousand feet, may be seen the trees of these separate periods—layer upon

layer, cemented into the volcanic debris which in turn overwhelmed each growing forest where it stood," presumably requiring millions of years.

Marvelous and old and stable as these petrified forests now appear, they represent periods of change from one state to another. In a world of even slow change, where God "cutteth out channels among the rocks," as we read in Job 28:10, it is satisfying beyond measure to know that God and his Son, perfect in love and power, are *eternal*; that Christ, the world's Saviour, is the same "yesterday, to-day and for ever"; that he himself prayed, "O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee *before the world was*"; whose power is as a stone cut out without hands, destroying the image described in the second chapter of Daniel, and became "a great mountain and filled the whole earth," typifying a kingdom "which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and *it shall stand for ever.*"

"ONLY A MINUTE."

I have only just a minute, only sixty seconds in it, forced upon me; can't refuse it; didn't seek it, didn't choose it; but it's up to me to use it; I must suffer if I lose it; give account if I abuse it. Just a tiny little minute—but *eternity* is in it.—*Rev. H. M. Course.*

THE FOOD OF THE WORLD.

Bergfield, a German investigator, accounts for the different races in the human family, so far as color is concerned, on the theory that certain foods and drinks used throughout the centuries have produced certain colors of the skin. For instance, the Indian is red because for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years he has taken into his system the red material in the blood of animals which he has killed for food; the Caucasian is white

because of his liberal use of milk and salt, the latter being a strong chloride, "and powerful in bleaching the skin."

Whether or not the food is the cause of one race being white, others red, yellow, brown or black, it is true that all must have food for the physical being, and just as true that all hunger and thirst for something more, for which there is but one satisfying source of supply. John 6:35: "Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall not hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

EXAMPLE.

BEST KIND OF TEACHING.

In a Government school in Japan was a man who signed a contract not to teach Christianity, nor proselyte. So far as words were concerned, he kept his agreement faithfully. But his noble, blameless life could not be hid. Forty of the students, without his knowledge at the time, met secretly and pledged themselves to forsake idolatry, for the religion of their beloved teacher, which they did. More than this, a number of them began preaching the gospel in their native land. "A consistent Christian example is a constant proof of godliness."

OMENS OF GOOD AND ILL.

Among the superstitions of railroad men is that, if a careless fireman permits the engine bell to toll after ringing it, some member of the engineer's family will die soon. Many conductors wear a flower in the buttonhole of the coat, believing it to be a good omen. Some consider it a sign of death upon the trip if the headlight of the engine goes out while leaving the roundhouse.

Regardless of how these superstitions originated, it is noteworthy that the same degree of carelessness which would permit the unintentional tolling of a bell, might result in danger to self

or others; that a flower in the buttonhole should always be considered a good sign, for it is alike cheering to wearer and beholder; and that failure to "let our light shine," not necessarily through the headlight of a locomotive, but by our conduct, may prove a misfortune to those who are influenced by our example.

HUNTED A SAFE CROSSING.

The story is told of a big dog which had often gone with its master for walks in the woods, easily leaping over a certain gulley, but that one day, when a little dog was along, it went a quarter of a mile upstream before crossing, at a safe place, because the more dangerous way might have resulted in the injury or death of the small animal.

If all men were as thoughtful of the welfare of those who are following in their footsteps, this would be a much better world, with fewer boys falling by the wayside.

EXPRESSION.

CULTIVATING A KEY-NOTE.

"Upon visiting some great milling establishments in England," writes Ethel Powelson Hueston, "we were astonished to find that we could not hear each other speak, because of the terrific noise and uproar. We stood close together and yelled at the top of our voices. The men who worked in the mills conversed with each other quietly and comfortably. Their voices seemed lower than usual; just ordinary, quiet, distinct conversation. They had cultivated a different key-note."

When things go wrong, do not imagine that a loud tone, an impatient manner, or a manifestation of temper, will help matters. By pitching your voice *against* the confusion of sounds in the world the probabilities are you will not be heard. Cultivate a key-note distinct from the rumble and roar around you. If

you are patient, calm and confident, people will hear and believe the words you utter.

CONFUSION OF WORDS.

Speakers and writers should learn to express themselves clearly. An Irishman, referring to the prevalence of suicide, said: "The only way to stop it is to make it a capital offense, punishable by death." A member of the British Parliament, in discussing some measure, asked: "Why should we beggar ourselves to better posterity? What has posterity done for us?" A minister who had advertised for an organist for his church received this reply: "Dear Sir: I notice you have a vacancy for an organist and music-teacher, either lady or gentleman. Having been both for several years, I beg to apply for the position." The Boston *Transcript* publishes the following on "tripping authors":

"Writes Arnold Bennett: 'She won 15,000 francs in as many minutes.' Pretty long session, that!

"Another novelist says: 'Her eyes filled with silent tears.' Generally they boom like billows, you know!

"According to another: 'Charlotte Von Stern was, when Goethe first met her, several years older than himself.' But later, of course, 'twas otherwise!"

EXTRAVAGANCE.

SINKING OF THE CASPIAN.

When it was found that the surface level of the Caspian Sea was sinking, thus interfering with navigation, a comprehensive study of the matter was made by scientists. The cause was traced to the diminishing inflow of water from the rivers tributary to the Caspian, the supply not equaling the evaporation from the large surface.

Many failures in life may be traced to the fact that persons

live beyond their income. The outgo is greater than the inflow. This can not long continue without serious consequences.

WHICH WOULD BE BEST?

The United States battleship "South Dakota" cost $12,000,000. For twenty years it will cost $800,000 annually to keep it up, then it will be consigned to the junk-heap. Total expense, $28,000,000. This sum would build fourteen hundred churches at $20,000 each, or give a college education, at $500 a year for four years, to fourteen thousand young men and women.—*Adult Bible Class Monthly.*

Stupendous as may seem this comparison, we must remember it relates to the cost of but one of the many battleships in our own and other navies.

"DOGS IN CLOVER."

Harold Murray, of London, writes of the care taken of many canines by well-to-do dog fanciers: "There are handsome coats, shoes, collars, ties and handkerchiefs. There are specially prepared hair-washes, silver-toothed combs and costly hair-brushes. 'Going to the dogs,' after all, does not always seem to imply a life of misery. These fortunate pets are treated far better than thousands of babies in Christian England; and while they are in the lap of luxury, scores of homeless men starve to death every year."

What he says of England is equally true of America.

FAITH.

THE WIT OF A BISHOP.

An atheist once asked Bishop Boyd Carpenter if he believed that Jonah was swallowed by a whale, and received the answer:

"When I go to heaven I will ask him."

"But suppose he isn't there," the other persisted.

"Then you ask him," was the quick retort.

WHY SHE DID NOT FEAR.

A father was holding his blind daughter on his knee, when a friend who had called took her in his arms. The little one made no outcry. "Aren't you afraid, darling?" the father asked; "you don't know who has you." "No," was the prompt reply, "but you do." Faith in her father's loving care banished fear.—*W. Hetherington.*

THE ANSWER HE SENT.

During the work of Eliot, the apostle to the Indians, the sachems sent men to threaten him, but he replied: "I fear none of them. Tell those who sent you that I am under the protection of almighty God, and shall go on with my work without any fear of what man can do to me." They stared at him in amazement and went away without doing him violence.—*Christian Herald.*

THE GIRL'S VERSION.

It is said that a cobbler who was an infidel wrote on a blackboard in his shoe-shop: "God is nowhere." A little girl, who had just learned to read, came into his place of business soon after and slowly spelled out the sentence. "God is n-o-w, *now*; h-e-r-e, *here*; God is now here."

The child expressed the sentiment of many of the brightest men and women who have ever lived.

NOT SEEKING HINDRANCES.

A Swede was about to start as a missionary to India, when some of his friends tried to dissuade him, saying: "It is so hot there you can't live. Why, it is 120 degrees in the shade." "Vell," said the man of faith, in great contempt, "ve don't have to stay in the shade, do ve?" It is just possible the Lord will make it hotter for folks who habitually hunt the shade than for those who get out into the sunlight where they can see to work. —*Robert E. Speer.*

IMITATION OF THE ARK.

"One of the most curious and interesting undertakings in years," says the *Youth's Companion,* "is that of the building in Denmark of a vessel modeled upon the lines of Noah's ark, as described in Genesis. When launched, the ship, to the surprise of the builder, proved itself very seaworthy. The London *Spectator,* in commenting upon this curious undertaking, says that the experiment is regarded by the Danes as strengthening belief in the accuracy of the Biblical story of Noah's escape."

THE TESTING-TIME.

Ethan Allen, the hero of Ticonderoga, New York, in the Revolutionary War, a noted infidel of his time, was called to the dying-bed of his daughter, who said to him:

"Father, before mother died she taught me to believe in Christ. You know what you have taught me. Now that I must leave this world, whose teachings shall I trust in, yours or mother's?"

With sobs of distress the father cried: "Trust in the teachings of your mother, my child!"

ACROSS DEATH VALLEY.

Several survivors of the first band of white persons to cross Death Valley, in 1849, held a reunion at Santa Cruz, California, one being a woman ninety-nine years of age. Among other hardships recalled was the fact that they were fifty-two days crossing the sands of Mojave Desert. The others admitted that had it not been for the woman's words of faith, cheer and encouragement they would never have reached the land of the Golden Gate, "where Pacific breezes blow and blossoms ever scent the air."

The whole human race longs for the Eternal Land of Golden Sunshine, where flowers of happiness and contentment ever bloom; but it lies beyond the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

Is there encouragement to press on? Listen to Christ, our Saviour, who has crossed Death Valley and conquered it: "He that heareth my word, and *believeth* on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life."

IN POSITION OF PERIL.

Utterly powerless to save himself, an Illinois man in a bed of quicksand shouted for hours for help, which came none too soon, for he had gone down to his armpits, and would soon have been swallowed up in death. Workmen lassoed him with a rope and pulled him two hundred feet to solid ground.

Man in the quicksands of evil is often powerless to help himself. Many times he does not realize his danger until he feels himself going down in spite of all he can do. When in faith he shouts to God for help, he *will* be heard and saved.

HER FATHER'S LARGE HAND.

Mrs. A. B. Bryant tells of a little girl who was walking home with her father one night, holding on to his hand, when she suddenly begged: "Take *my* hand, papa! I can take only a little piece of yours, but you can hold the whole of mine!" In his strong grasp she seemed comforted, but stopped again, asking: "Papa, are *you* afraid?" He assured her he was not, when she cheerfully started on, with the words: "All wight! If you isn't, I isn't." The man afterwards remarked: "I have read many books on faith, but nothing ever appealed to me like that. I'm trying to trust God that way."

NAPOLEON REWARDS CONFIDENCE.

One day when Napoleon was reviewing his troops in Paris, he let fall the reins of his bridle, and his proud charger galloped swiftly away. Before he could recover himself a common soldier ran out of the ranks, caught the horse and placed the reins again in the emperor's hands. "Much obliged to you, Captain,"

said Napoleon. "Of what regiment, sire?" the man immediately asked. Delighted with his quick perception and ready trust in his word, the great general replied: "Of my guard." So the soldier walked proudly to his position as captain of Napoleon's guard. God honors and delights in a like manifestation of faith. Take him at his word, doubting nothing.—*E. W. Thornton.*

LOOKING DOWN UPON A STORM.

A writer in the *Christian Endeavor World* tells of being with seven men on Mt. Katahdin in 1874, during a thunder-storm, when they witnessed a most wonderful phenomenon. From a sheltered spot in the rocks they looked to the east and saw the rain descend from the clouds to the earth, a mile below, with the sun in all its brightness shining down upon the storm, transforming the scene into a double rainbow—a complete circle of marvelous beauty.

It is for those on the mountain-top of faith to behold the Sun of righteousness shining down upon the storms of earth, transforming the scene into a complete circle of joy.

TRUSTING THE EX-CONVICT.

A. I. Root, the well-known bee-man in Ohio, once went to the county jail to read the Bible and pray with an inmate who was on his way to the penitentiary. The prisoner was converted, and Mr. Root was permitted to take him away, and gave him work in his jewelry store. Finally he asked him to sleep in the store at nights, to protect the valuables from possible burglaries. The ex-convict looked very serious, then broke down and cried until his strong body shook with emotion, as Mr. Root tells it in "Gleanings in Bee Culture." After a few moments he asked him:

"Fred, you are not afraid your old temptation will come back when you are here alone in the night-time, are you?"

He replied through his tears: "No, Mr. Root, no! God bless

you, no! I'm only too glad of the chance to show you that I will give my last drop of blood to protect you or yours."

And he kept his promise until the day of his death.

NO DANGER THAT TRIP.

"One beautiful morning in the spring of 1863," says a writer in *Zion's Watchman,* "I was on a passenger train on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, crossing the green glades from the Alleghanies westward. At that time the road was held alternately by the Federal and Confederate armies, and travel was neither safe nor pleasant. The train was behind time, and whirled rapidly around curves, across bridges and over fields, so that many faces wore a look of anxiety. Presently a little girl of four or five came along the aisle, and I engaged her in conversation, asking how it was she was not afraid. In a clear, sweet voice which I shall never forget, she said: 'Some mornings I *am* afraid, but there's no danger *this* morning, for *papa* is running the engine.'"

We should not needlessly worry about the world and the outcome as we make the journey of life. Our heavenly Father is in charge of it all.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S FAITH.

William J. Johnson, in his book, "Abraham Lincoln, the Christian," gives the following as one instance of the unwavering faith of the man:

"Mr. L. E. Chittenden, who was Register of the Treasury under Lincoln, says he ventured on one occasion to ask him how far he believed that the Almighty directed national affairs. Lincoln replied: 'That the Almighty does make use of human agencies, and directly interferes in human affairs, is one of the plainest statements of the Bible. I have had so many evidences of his direction, so many instances when I have been controlled by some other power than my own will, I can not doubt that

this power comes from above. I frequently see my way clear to a decision when I am conscious that I have not sufficient facts on which to found it. But I can not recall one instance, founded upon such a decision, when the results were unsatisfactory. . . . I am confident that when the Almighty wants me to do, or not to do, a particular thing, he finds a way of letting me know it."

FLAGS AT HALF-MAST.

Centuries ago the custom was adopted of placing the flag of a conquering nation above that of the vanquished, signifying the superiority of one and the respect of the other. Later, when soldiers died, flags were lowered in respect to their memory. The custom finally passed from military usage to public life, so now a flag flying at half-mast means that some one has not only proven worthy of the honor, but that the space above is for the flag of the universal conqueror, Death.

But listen! His victory is only apparent, not real. Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians: "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. . . . O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? . . . Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Remember, the White Flag of Faith is *never* at half-mast. It floats in triumph over all other flags, standing for faith in One whose name is above every name.

BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE.

The celebrated Rabbi Akiba had as a motto, "Whatever God does is well done." On one occasion when traveling on a long journey he came to a certain village to stop for the night, but was refused admission, so camped a short distance beyond its borders. He had with him a lamp, a rooster and a donkey. A gust of wind blew out the lamp, and, having nothing with which to again light it, he was left in darkness. Soon a wildcat pounced out of a thicket, carrying off his rooster, and a lion

slew his beast. The next morning he learned that a band of robbers had massacred the inhabitants of the village during the night. Then he perceived how the refusal to permit him to stop there had been a blessing in disguise, as had the apparent misfortunes. He reasoned that had the wind not put out his light it would probably have attracted the robbers to him; that had the wildcat not killed his rooster, its crowing would have done the same; and that had the lion not killed his donkey, its braying would surely have been heard by the murderous band. Once more he said gratefully: "What God does is well done."

HOW TANK WAS HOISTED.

Having erected a large barn, an Australian farmer was perplexed as to how to hoist a four-hundred-gallon steel water-tank to the top of it. No suitable block and tackle equipment could be obtained. Then he thought of his motorcycle, and reasoned that here, right at hand, was a power more than sufficient for the task. Two poles with a cross-bar at the top, a pulley and a strong rope were put in position, and with the power furnished by the motorcycle the tank was easily lifted to its place on the roof.

In every life come times when, in the pursuit of some worthy work, the limit of available power seems to have been reached. We become discouraged, perhaps, and cease trying. Then we remember there is a Power right at hand; that God is ever with us, only waiting for us to ask in faith, that he may supply all our needs. We have the promise in Isa. 40:31: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

WHEN ALL ARE ALIKE.

During the days following the destruction of San Francisco by fire, resulting from the disastrous earthquake in April, 1906,

it was very noticeable that rich and poor were one in spirit. Faith and tender sympathy was the one thing manifest on all sides. In times of distress and peril the human heart turns to God as naturally as the growing plant to the sunlight.

When the great ship "Titanic" went down, carrying fifteen hundred people to a watery grave, including eleven millionaires, the last moments of many were spent in prayer, while the ship's band played, "Nearer, My God, to Thee," until the cold waters of death smothered the last notes of the upturned instruments. Here is one incident related by the *Christian Standard*:

"A deck chair from the 'Titanic' was picked up on the ocean recently. On it John Jacob Astor had inscribed a message. What would it be—the last words of such a man at such a time? '*We will meet in heaven.*' It is significant that not all the skepticism of a skeptical world, nor all the crash and clash of the stormiest life, can remove from the human heart that elemental conviction that there is a life beyond."

THE DEATH OF A BOY.

In a sermon on "Childhood," in 1896, Talmage referred to a most touching incident that came under his observation when pastor in a Western town—the passing away of Scoville McCollum, aged ten years.

"This story," said the great preacher, "has brought hundreds to God. He was a thorough boy—his voice loudest and his foot swiftest on the playground. When the days of sickness came suddenly and he was told he could not get well, he said: 'Don't cry, mamma. I shall go right up to heaven. I lay myself at Jesus' feet, and I want him to do just what he thinks best.' In those days, 'Rest for the Weary' was a popular hymn, and he learned it. In a perfect ecstasy of soul, in his last hour he sang a verse and added: 'There is rest for you, papa! There is rest for you, mamma! Yes, there is rest for me.' Then he asked them to read, 'The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He

maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside still waters,' and he cried out, 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?' And so, with a peace indescribable, he passed away."

FAITHFULNESS.

"HOLD YOUR SPEED."

T. E. Wilson, who commenced working for Morris & Co., the well-known meat firm, when twenty years of age, and was finally elected president of the company, gives this bit of advice to young men: "If you attract the favorable attention of your superiors, forget it, and hold your speed."

THE LIGHTED TORCH.

The Greeks had a foot-race in which speed and endurance were not the only tests. Each man at the start was given a lighted torch, and the laurel wreath was for the one who came in first, "with his torch alight." Success in life is not merely "getting there," but, more important still, in keeping the light of God burning in our hurrying souls.—*Christian Endeavor World.*

"ALWAYS ON THE JOB."

Louis E. Pierson, who was chosen president of one of the largest wholesale grocery houses in the world, at $100,000 a year, when he was only forty-two years of age, made his place for himself. When sixteen he began as a messenger in a bank. Nothing distinguished him from others in like service except that his accounts were always correct, and he was "always on the job." He climbed up step by step to the presidency of the bank, leaving it, at an offer of $65,000 per year, to accept the position with the wholesale house referred to above.

The young man who makes good in the most humble position will later prove worthy and make good in a greater one, should the opportunity come.

A STEP AT A TIME.

One carrier on a rural mail route in Missouri traveled over one hundred thousand miles in fourteen years while serving the patrons of his route. This is equal to four times around the world. And yet it was accomplished by keeping at it, day after day, week after week and year after year, his faithful horses going just one step at a time.

Every great life has been lived in the same way—made up by the many little duties met and performed, one at a time, "day in and day out."

TO REACH THE SUMMIT.

It was Beecher who said: "When a man seeks to see Rome from the dome of St. Peter's, every step he takes in the long, winding passage is wise—*if he takes them all!* Not one counts until he has taken the last—and then they *all* count, for that which he is to see can be seen only when he stands on the summit."

In many of the efforts of men they fail because they do not persevere to the finish. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." The reward is for those who have done their best.

THE HEART OF LIVINGSTONE.

Because of his devotion to the black people of Africa, David Livingstone refused to return home with Stanley, because his "task was not yet completed." In less than a year his vitality was exhausted, and on the morning of May 1, 1873, he was found by his faithful attendant kneeling by his bed, his head in his hand, upon his pillow. His spirit had passed up to God on the wings of his final prayer. His faithful converts buried his heart under the great trees, for they said, "It belongs to Africa," and, after embalming his body in their crude way, they carried it across the floods and through the deep woods, by hostile

tribes, a year's journey, to Zanzibar. Thence it was taken to England, and given a place among kings and statesmen in Westminster Abbey.—*H. Melville Tenney.*

UNTIL RELIEVED.

During the siege of the fortress of Gibraltar the governor, while making a tour of inspection, came to a sentinel who stood stock-still, neither holding his musket nor presenting arms. The governor stopped and demanded to know why he did not salute him. "Because," was the reply, "within the last five minutes two fingers of my right hand have been shot off and I can not hold my musket." "Then, why do you not go and have it bound up?" "Because," came the brave reply, "in Germany a man is forbidden to leave his post until replaced by another." The officer immediately dismounted to relieve the faithful sentinel, that his wounds might be dressed.

MARKS CENTER OF ENGLAND.

Near the city of Leamington, England, stands a tree, surrounded by an iron fence, in the middle of a broad public thoroughfare. This particular tree is given much care and distinction because it is in the center of England. Visitors viewing it know where they are, relatively speaking, it matters not where their homes may be.

It is a fine thing for a person to so live that those who know him feel strength in realizing that he stands impartially in the center of every duty, bearing his share of every burden, his influence radiating for good in every direction, his love extending equally to all parts of the world.

"ONLY WHEN SICK."

When a shepherd in Scotland was asked if his sheep would follow the voice of a stranger, he replied: "Yes, when they are sick, but never when they are well. A sick sheep will follow anybody." Just so long as a Christian keeps himself in a healthy

condition by feeding on God's word and by exercising in his fields of activity, there will be little danger of his going off after the "faddists" and false teachers of his age. It is when his ears become diseased—when he has contracted *ear itch*—that he becomes restless and dissatisfied with his Master.—*W. H. Book, in The Lookout.*

Jesus says, as recorded in John 10:27, 28: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give unto them eternal life."

FOLLOWING ORDERS.

A fifteen-year-old boy, who had been waiting patiently in line at a big bank, presented a slip of paper at the cashier's window calling for several hundred dollars, in different denominations. It was evidently for the pay-roll of some large business house. First a roll of twenties was handed to the youth, and before he had finished counting this a lot of tens, fives and twos were shoved out. The cashier, evidently becoming impatient, threw down on the greenbacks a lot of silver—dollars, halves, quarters and dimes. The boy flushed, gave the man a long, straight look and deliberately continued counting until he had finished. Back in the waiting line was a tall, prosperous-looking man who had seen it all. When his turn came he said, rather sternly, to the cashier:

"That boy you were trying to confuse a moment ago is my new office-boy. In counting the money before leaving, you knew he was following the orders of this bank—it's on one of your signs. I had also told him to do the same thing. He's going to get a raise Saturday night."

NANSEN'S CARRIER-PIGEON.

After an absence of thirty months a carrier-pigeon taken by Nansen on his polar expedition made a flight of one thousand miles over the frozen wastes of the far North, back to his home

at Christiania, tapping at the window of Mrs. Nansen's home. She covered the little creature with kisses and caresses, for it bore a long-looked-for message from her husband, saying all was going well with him and his expedition in the polar regions. The *Northern Christian Advocate* comments on the incident as follows: "We boast of human pluck, sagacity and endurance, but this loving little carrier-pigeon accomplished a feat so wonderful that we can only give ourselves up to amazement and admiration."

Near the close of his ministry on earth Jesus left this message with his disciples: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation." After the lapse of nineteen hundred years and over, his message has not yet reached all for whom it was intended. Had his professed followers in all ages manifested one-half the faithfulness of Nansen's carrier-pigeon, the message would have reached hundreds of thousands who have died without ever hearing the sweetest story ever told to mortal man.

FORGIVENESS.

SAVED LIFE OF ENEMY.

During the Revolutionary War a minister walked sixty miles to beg Washington to spare the life of a certain man sentenced to death for treason. Washington at first refused, but when the preacher remarked, "I suppose I have not a worse enemy living," the general was so moved that he readily granted the pardon. The forgiving spirit of the minister transformed his enemy into a friend and reformed a vicious character.

REDEEMING BURNED MONEY.

Every autumn the United States Treasurer receives for redemption charred bits of money stored in ovens and stoves during the warm summer months and forgotten until the return of cold weather, when the fires are rekindled. About two thou-

sand such cases occur annually, coming first from the Northern States, and then gradually on down to the Gulf.

Charred bits of noble beginnings, made in the bright spring days of youth, are remembered by many when frosted hairs remind them of the approach of life's autumn. It is then that the value of the good resolutions, scorched by the rush-heat of life's summer-time, is appreciated, and the heavenly Father, the Treasurer of the world, is asked to redeem them, and to forgive the forgetfulness.

ENEMIES AT THE GRAVE.

In one of the cities of Ohio occurred the death of a young lady whose father had been at enmity with two of her brothers for fifteen years. The man carried his bitterness so far as to give notice that he would exclude the sons from the funeral at his home, which he did. The brothers, however, obtained an injunction restraining him from preventing them viewing the body of their sister. The father and sons stood less than four feet apart at the grave, as each took the last look at the loved one.

It is such instances as these that strikingly emphasize the place and power of the spirit of Christ, who prayed for the forgiveness of his enemies, and who said: "If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

FRIENDSHIP.

WHERE CARE IS NEEDED.

A beautiful structure months, perhaps years, in building may be destroyed by flames in a very short time. A forest of many years' growth may soon be leveled by a fire which has passed beyond control. Friendships which have been years in forming

may be ruined by a fit of anger, by an uncontrolled tongue, in a thoughtless moment. Above every ordinary consideration, guard your friendships. Be true to those who have been true to you. Then, high above all earthly friendships, let us so live that we will never offend our best Friend—Christ, our Saviour.

INVINCIBLE LOVE.

Shall I tell you a little secret? It is this: The best way to get rid of all your enemies is to *make friends of them.* How? Well, perhaps it is hard, but it can be done—by *serving* them. Think well of them all the time. Keep asserting in your mind that you love them. Pray for them. Never think of their faults. Watch for some opportunity to do them a good turn unostentatiously. Keep at it, again and again, until your persistent love is crowned with success. The effects of love are cumulative. No one can resist in the end. Love's handclasp never leaves a sting in the palm.—*Rev. R. P. Anderson.*

NOVEL TELEGRAPHY.

A deaf-mute and a blind man in Pennsylvania found great pleasure and helpful friendship in conversing with each other by means of telegraph instruments, using the Morse code. A green electric bulb showed the flashes for the deaf one, and the blind man caught the ticks from the sounder.

It is thus with every member of the human race. What one lacks, another possesses. This is what makes friendship sweet. While we all possess some things in common, we know that all are not endowed alike. We find in others strength for our weak points, and they find in us good measure for their failings.

WHAT THE JEWEL NEEDS.

"Sunday at Home" tells of an opal in a great jewelry store concerning which a gentleman remarked: "It has no beauty at all." The attendant held the jewel in his hand a few minutes, whereupon every particle of it glowed with the splendor of the

rainbow. "It only needs the warmth of the human hand," he explained, "to bring out its wonderful beauty."

There are many sad hearts in the world which can be made to shine out through eyes now lusterless, simply by the touch of friendship. "The warmth of the human hand," with what it may supply, has transformed many lives. Withhold not this gift from any in need of it within the range of your influence.

VARYING DEFINITIONS.

At a social function the conversation drifted to the subject of friendship, and an athlete said:

"In my opinion, a friend is a balancing-pole that enables us to walk the tight-rope of life without falling."

Said a physician: "I believe a friend may be likened to a soft bandage and a soothing ointment for the cuts and bruises of life."

"A friend is a golden link in the chain of life," said a jeweler.

To a botanist it seemed that "a friend is a vine that clings to us and hides the discrepancies and rough places of life," to which a florist added: "And, yes, the greater the ruin, the closer such a friend clings."

A woman in mourning responded: "A friend is the one who comes in when the whole world goes out."

"The best friend of all," said a white-haired man of eighty, "is Jesus, who said, 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend.'"

GAMBLING.

THE CURSE OF CENTURIES.

The crime of gambling is no modern thing, but a haggard, aged thing that comes staggering down through the centuries with the maledictions and curses of ten thousand generations upon it. It ruined Greece. It despoiled Carthage. It sacked

the Roman Empire. In the days of Rome's decadence everybody gambled. While Jesus hung dying upon the cross, the Roman soldiers at his feet gambled for his seamless robe, unmindful of the fact that the greatest tragedy of the ages was being enacted. Gambling is the greatest foe to manhood, industry and honesty with which we have to do. It is as fatal to character as Prussic acid is to the body.—*L. O. Bricker.*

GREAT SUICIDE FACTORY.

Although the population of Monte Carlo, the famous gambling resort, is only about four thousand, suicides are so common as to attract but little attention. Many who go there and lose everything they possess, prefer death to poverty and disgrace. Within a space of a few months sixty-five bodies of those who had taken their own lives were carried out of the gardens connected with the great Casino.

It is estimated that four hundred thousand persons annually visit there. From the walls of the brilliantly lighted rooms look down costly paintings, by French artists. The very air seems loaded with suspense as the crowds, strangely quiet, flow in and out and around, watching the players. Some win impassively, some smile, others grow flushed. Side by side, touching elbows, are people of all ranks and countries, "reduced to a common level by a common vice," as one writer expresses it. Here may be seen sorrow and folly; hope, wild-eyed and haggard; the mockery of money, which lightly comes and goes; despair, too, lurking in the dark shadows of self-destruction, where the last ray of hope has gone out.

The money lost in gambling in Monte Carlo, or elsewhere, is as nothing compared with the loss of character. It has been described by one writer as a tree of slow growth. "Every day of good conduct makes it stronger, every folly weakens it. Man may lose strength, health, money, but if his character remains, he is still a man, and fate can not harm him."

GRATITUDE.

THE ART OF DOUBLING.

"Set your candle before the looking-glass," said a dear, quaint old lady; "you will get almost the light of two candles that way." This thought was carried out by a poor sewing-woman. Whenever she became the happy possessor of a flower, she set it also before her mirror, and thus her eyes had two flowers to enjoy. Pleasures shared are doubled. Can we not always set our candles before a looking-glass?—*A. L. McDowell.*

CHINESE PREACHER'S PARABLE.

In urging the sacredness of and gratitude for the Lord's Day, a Chinese preacher said: "It came to pass that a man went to market, having a string of seven large copper coins. [Chinese coins are carried on strings, over the shoulder.] Seeing a beggar crying for alms, he gave the poor creature six of his seven coins. Then the beggar, instead of being grateful, crept up behind the man and stole the seventh also. What an abominable wretch! Yes, but in saying this you condemn yourselves. You receive from the hand of the gracious God six days, yet you are not content. The seventh also you steal!"

THANKS RESCUER OF LONG AGO.

The press dispatches of May, 1913, told of a young man named John Bott who walked into the office of J. J. Butler, trainmaster of the Chicago & Alton, thanking him for saving his life when he was a baby seventeen years before. "This is the first opportunity I've had," said he.

In 1896, when Mr. Butler was a fireman on the same road, he was horrified one morning to see a child standing between the rails. The engineer applied the air-brakes, but was unable to stop the train in time. Like a flash Butler went through the cab window, passed swiftly to the lower step of the pilot, and,

holding on with one hand, he reached down with the other, lifting up the baby out of danger. That baby was John Bott, who, as he became older, had a growing feeling of gratitude for the one who had rescued him from his perilous position.

Our hearts go out in admiration of the person who is grateful for every blessing and kindness shown. From whence cometh life, light, food, clothing, and salvation through Christ from the terrors of death? From God, yes. Let's ever live in a spirit of gratitude, daily and hourly thanking him for his great goodness to us.

HABIT.

FELT GREATLY RELIEVED.

Force of habit leads some persons to ask questions about matters concerning which they seem greatly interested, but which in reality is not much on their mind. *Success* tells of such an instance:

"A lady on one of the ocean liners who seemed much afraid of icebergs asked the captain what would happen in case of a collision with one, to which he replied: 'The iceberg would move right along, madam, just as if nothing had happened.' With this the lady seemed greatly relieved."

KILLED BY LIONS IN CAGE.

Emerson Dietrich, a Cornell graduate, and manager of a trained-animal act, met death while with a show in Chicago. Notwithstanding a word of warning from his attendant to the effect that the beasts were mean that day, Dietrich entered a cage of lions to water and clean them, confidently remarking: "They would never hurt *me* in a thousand years." He had scarcely closed the door when a lion pounced upon him, quickly followed by four others. The attendant was powerless to aid him. During the brief but fearful struggle Dietrich cried in awful agony: "My God, get me out of here!" Two loads of

policemen came in response to a hurried call, but arrived too late, for the lions stood triumphant over the trainer's dead, bruised, lacerated body.

This tragic incident reminds one of the boasts of those who indulge in hurtful habits: "I will never let them get the best of *me*."

Sad as was the death of Dietrich and terrible as were the lacerations of his body, the enemies of the soul are more to be dreaded than the fury of wild beasts. In the seventh Psalm are these significant words: "O Jehovah, my God, in thee do I take refuge; save me from all them that pursue me, and deliver me, lest they tear my soul like a lion, rending it to pieces, while there is none to deliver."

IMMENSE ROCK DYNAMITED.

For twenty years a great rock, three thousand feet high, forming the peak of a mountain overlooking Thormery, France, had threatened the destruction of the village, owing to continuous disintegration at its base, due to the rains. Finally, rather than live longer in fear, the citizens made three borings, placed in each a charge of dynamite, and blew the towering peak to atoms.

If you have any habit threatening the ruin of your character and manhood, destroy it. Do not temporize, but with firm resolve and a charge of determination that will not tolerate resistance, "blow it to atoms." It is the only safe course.

THE DELAYED SHIP.

A vessel loaded with passengers, and ready to sail, had gone but a short distance when it began rocking and tossing, finally coming to a complete stop, because one of the shore-lines had not been unfastened.

Young people starting out on the sea of life often come to a pause in their influence for good. They are clinging to some

sinful, hindering habit. Cut the shore-lines, friends—*all* of them. Launch out into the deep of pure, clean living if you would reach the "other shore," after awhile. There may be some storms on the voyage, but never has a passenger been lost on God's good ship of Faith, Hope and Love.

HATE.

FEASTS ON PICKLES.

The papers tell of an Oregon man who has a craving for things that are sour, and who eats a quart of dill pickles every day.

This is no more strange than the mental appetite of those who feast upon the disagreeable gossip of the neighborhood—who seem "soured" on all that is beautiful and sweet in life.

THE SPITE FENCE.

On a prominent boulevard in Chicago there stood for many years a fence eighteen feet high, erected by a woman who imagined her neighbor was peering into her windows. While it effectually cut off the inlook, it shut the sunshine out of her own yard, ruined the lawn and cast a shadow upon the house. Spite and resentment always cast the heaviest shadow over the heart that harbors them, and shut out the sunshine of life.—*Adult Bible Class Monthly.*

TACT BETTER THAN TACKS.

Somebody strewed thousands of flat-headed tacks along the ten miles of road between Oakland and Richmond last Saturday night, and dozens of automobile tires were ruined and the machines temporarily crippled. It is hard to form a conception of the mind and heart of any one mean and hateful enough to do such a thing.—*San Francisco Daily Paper.*

Any one, however much lacking in intelligence, may go about dropping sharp, cutting words, thus making life's pathway much

rougher for others who are coming along, but it requires kindly tact to make the way smooth again.

SEVEN TRAINS HELD UP.

Because a rat gnawed off the insulation of a wire, the entire signal system of a railroad line was put out of commission, delaying three express and four fast freight trains for half an hour, besides inconveniencing many persons and throwing out of order other parts of the workings of the big corporation.

An individual with a nagging, gnawing, biting disposition may think the sharp, unkind words are little things, but frequently they beget widespread discord. The nervous tension thus brought about delays work, distresses workers, and frequently results in bitter misunderstandings before matters are adjusted.

HELPFULNESS.

WHY THEY DON'T COME.

A drowning man who had been struggling in vain to grasp the oar a boatman held out to him, gasped: "For mercy's sake, give me the wooden end!" The other had been holding to him the frozen end, which slipped from his fingers. So, often we hold out to sinking souls an oar of ice while we sit in cushioned pews with gloved hands, holding on to the warm end. Let us learn, like our Master, to go to the publicans and sinners if we would have them come to us.—*A. B. Simpson, in "Sabbath Reading."*

A BROTHER'S OVERSIGHT.

Eight hundred dollars was the amount left by a New York man with which to pay the funeral expenses and provide a monument for his sister, who survived him. She waived the provisions of the will, declaring she was in need of food and clothing, and asked that the executor pay her $40 a month.

A sack of *flour* in the pantry is more cheering to the hungry

living than the cultivation of the most beautiful *flowers* in all the world for the casket.

DO SOMETHING QUICK.

Are you almost disgusted with life, little man?
I'll tell you a wonderful trick.
It will bring you contentment if anything can—
"Do something for somebody, quick!"

Are you awfully tired of play, little girl,
Weary, discouraged and sick?
I'll tell you the loveliest game in the world—
"Do something for somebody, quick!"

—*New York Times.*

DOING, NOT TALKING.

What mankind is awaiting is the brotherhood of man;
It's asked for it, and prayed for it, since e'er the world began.
Men talk of it, they preach of it, from every point of view,
But those who nobly practice it, their number is but few.
Why wait until communities resolve to live it out?
It's just by one's and two's and three's such work is brought about.
Each one of us has got a world tied up within his breast,
And what we *are* and what we *do* should benefit the rest.

—*Tit-Bits.*

SURPRISE LAKE.

Near Port Arthur, Western Ontario, is Surprise Lake, only an eighth of a mile from Lake Superior, but it is fifteen feet above its level. It is half a mile in length and a quarter of a mile in width, with neither inlet nor outlet, with neither rise nor fall. Local tradition says its bottom has not been sounded. . . . It suggests a certain type of man. He is a surprise to himself and to others, in that he has not done more, become more. He may in his own estimation lie above the level of common humanity. Yet he is only a little lake, out of touch with the great sea of human life. He draws not from the mass; he gives nothing to men. With great resources, with deep wells of thought, with beautiful surroundings, he never rises higher than the sources within himself. He never overflows in compassionate sympathy for his fellows.—*Rev. Walter H. Bradley.*

PECULIAR CORNER ON WHEAT.

John Willer, of Scarboro Township, had a good crop of wheat one year, but did not sell. "Seed wheat will be scarce in the spring," said he to his wife. "I'll keep it till then." One day in April a man called on him who wanted to buy a load, and said he had the money to pay for it. Mr. Willer was thoughtful a moment, then replied: "I'm glad you told me. Lots of my neighbors need seed, this spring, and haven't the cash to pay for it. If they can't get it on credit, they can't get it at all, and I want to help them out. So you just drive on into town. You'll find plenty there."—*Youth's Companion.*

MADE POOR EXCHANGE.

After spending twenty-three years of his life, and $185,000 in money, in a lawsuit, a New York man was awarded $48,000. He not only received but little over a fourth as much as he spent, but suffered the greater loss of wasted years, nerve force and peace of mind which naturally accompany such a transaction.

And yet he was no more foolish than tens of thousands who never had a case in court. In other ways they selfishly spend time, money, strength and thought for things which not only fail to bring an equivalent, but leave them in a far worse condition than if they had not indulged, not to mention the great satisfaction that would have come along the joy-producing line of helpfulness to others.

THE GOLDEN RULE MAYOR.

Samuel M. Jones, who was three times elected mayor of Toledo, Ohio, had as his political platform the Golden Rule. Prior to his political career he made much money in oil fields and by the manufacture of his inventions. Here he developed the theory that the only rule needed to regulate a man's dealings with his employes and associates in business was the Golden Rule. He copied it from the Bible, posted it in his factory and

lived by it. He would have no other. He paid his men generous wages, and required them to work but eight hours a day. He had no strikes nor labor troubles.

His successful application, on such a large scale, of this teaching of Christ as to one's relation to others, proves it would be a practical world-wide solution of all problems growing out of the relations of capital and labor.

HOME.

POVERTY LETS LOVE IN.

One evening soon after a man of wealth had lost his riches, and the servants had necessarily been discharged, he went into the nursery of his home after a day of worry. His little girl climbed up on his knee, and, with her arms around his neck, said feelingly: "Papa, don't get rich again. You didn't come in here when you were rich, but now we can come around you and get on your knee and kiss you. Don't get rich, papa."—*Sabbath Reading.*

BACK OF THE BOY.

An elderly lady was commending a certain boy, saying she was sure he must have a good home, with the right kind of mother and sisters. A young lady who was listening inquired upon what she based her opinion, not knowing him.

"Upon his own conduct—his easy bearing, his natural courtesy and manliness," was the prompt reply.

The young lady became more thoughtful, finally remarking:

"Well, if folks are likely to judge our home and me by the way Ned acts, I'm going to be very careful after this."

HIS BROTHER'S PICTURE.

A tramp witnessed a moving-picture show in one of the Pacific Coast cities, and was startled when he saw the picture of a brother in a parade in his old home town, on the Atlantic

Coast. A feeling of homesickness came over him, and he wrote back to his loved ones so far away, telling of his own circumstances.

The greatest power within the grasp of parents is to make the home life so wholesome and joyous that the memory of happy childhood days may come to wayward sons or daughters, even in distant climes, with such appealing force as to once more turn their thoughts, desires and actions into better channels. It is related that a gambler in China was so touched by one of the men at the table whistling a song the other had often heard his mother sing that he straightway gave up gambling and turned over a new leaf.

HONOR.

A TITLE FOR SALE.

A Frenchman wants to sell his decayed title of duke, and hopes some rich American may buy. It would not be surprising if he should succeed. The newly rich American is apt to buy anything except common sense. He couldn't buy that if he would, and wouldn't if he could. Common sense is common, and therefore to be despised. . . . The most honorable title any American can attain is that of gentleman, and he need not go to France to get it, and he needs no money to buy it.—*Charles Grant Miller.*

COULD NOT BE BOUGHT.

It is related of George F. Baer that, soon after he began the practice of law, he was called to the office of a business man and listened to a proposition which he flatly turned down, because a moral principle was involved. The incident remained a secret for some years, but was finally disclosed by the business man to some associates, whose interests required a man who could not be bought. They selected Mr. Baer, and the business connection which he then established subsequently

placed him at the head of the Reading Railroad. The man who has no price except that fixed by honesty and honor, is to-day sought by big interests as well as by his fellows. He is the man to be trusted and the man who, when trusted, proves worthy, and merits real success in life.—*Grit.*

ANSWER OF A SLAVE-BOY.

Many years ago a colored boy was offered for sale at a slave market, says the *Lutheran World,* when one of the by-standers, moved with compassion and impressed with the lad's appearance, wished that he might keep him from falling into the hands of some cruel master. Going to the little black fellow, he said:

"Will you be honest if I buy you?"

With an indescribable look upon his frank face, the boy replied:

"I will be honest whether you buy me or not."

The person possessed of real honor lays down no condition for living honestly.

SECRET NAVAL CODE-BOOKS.

In addition to the regular "wig-wag" signals in daily use in the United States Navy, is a code of signals to be used solely in time of war and in the presence of an enemy. These secret code-books are given only to the executive officers of a ship, and are bound in heavy metal covers, that in time of threatened capture they may be thrown overboard, sinking at once to the bottom of the sea. Under no conditions must the books be surrendered to the enemy.

In addition to the ordinary helps for all in the daily walk of life—sunshine, water and food—there is another source of power for use in emergencies, when unusual danger or temptation confronts one. This code of the spiritual life is given only to those who sustain the right relation, through faith, to the

Ruler of land and sea. Back through the ages the persecutors have marveled at the soul-strength of the persecuted, seeing them bear up bravely and calmly under every conceivable form of torture, surrendering life itself rather than their faith in Christ as the Captain of their salvation.

HONESTY.

HOW IT HAPPENED.

We should not condemn in others what we practice ourselves.

Grocer—You sent me only twelve ounces of steak, when I ordered a pound.

Butcher—Well, I'll tell you how it happened. I lost my pound weight, and so used the pound packet of tea received from your store.

EASILY EXPLAINED.

The honest person does not care whether he is being watched or not. The New York *Times* tells of a man who asked his chauffeur, whom he had given some special work to do, "How is it I never find you at work when I come out here?"

"Well, sir," replied Joe, seriously, "I guess it's on account of those rubber heels you're wearing now."

HURTFUL TESTIMONY.

There are individuals who would scorn to make an open charge against another of some wrong, who leave room for all sorts of suspicions, by insinuating remarks. Joel Chandler Harris used to tell of a colored man charged with stealing chickens, and of the pastor of a negro church who was put on the stand as a witness.

"Do you think that Lucius Jackson would steal a chicken?" he was asked point-blank.

"I wouldn't want to say nothin' like dat," he slowly replied, "but I will say jes' dis, Jedge: Dat if I was a chicken and

Brudder Jackson were anywhar' aroun', I'd roost mighty high, sah!"

FORCED TO KEEP PROMISE.

One of Abraham Lincoln's callers induced a son of the great man to come to him by offering him his watch-charm. When the visitor was ready to leave, Mr. Lincoln reminded him of his promise to the boy. The man protested: "I can not. I prize it as an heirloom." "Give it to him," said the host, sternly. "I should not want him to know I entertained one who had no regard for his word." The caller removed the charm and handed it to the boy, having learned a valuable lesson.

THE SHOT MISSED HIM.

A colored man in Virginia sold a turkey to a white man, and guaranteed the fowl to be domestic and corn-fed. A few days later the purchaser met him and remarked:

"Sambo, you told me that turkey was domestic and corn-fed, but when eating it I found a shot in the meat."

"Well, sah," said the negro, scratching his head in perplexity, "I'se g'wine to be hones' wif you, sah. Dat shot, sah, was meant fo' me—*dat's* how it was!"

SALTING MINES.

In the pioneer days it was not uncommon for unprincipled men to "salt" practically worthless mines for the purpose of selling the same outright, or to sell shares. Among the methods used were mixing good ore with low-grade blastings; loading a rifle with real nuggets and discharging them into a soft ledge, penetrating sufficiently to deceive the unsuspecting; mixing rich ore with concrete and secreted in the tunnel in place of a worthless ledge which had been removed.

In making friends beware of "salted" characters—those who seem very anxious to impress you with their importance. Don't be in a hurry. Time will give you their real value.

HOPE.

AN IMMENSE ANCHOR.

"The new White Star liner, 'Britannic,' has an anchor weighing sixteen tons," we read. The heft of an anchor is proportionate to the size of the ship it is to serve.

You are safe in judging the size of a man, from a character standpoint, by the size of his hope in the best things of life. A man of small hopes is a little man. He of large hopes is a great man.

HEADS ABOVE THE WATER.

In the Southern seas, where big turtles live—powerful enough to carry men on their backs—the boys of the shorelands enjoy the sport of turtle-riding. When one of the big creatures comes near enough the youth leaps astride and instantly places a stick under its neck, and, with one hand on either end, to hold its head up, leans back for the novel ride. The turtle, in its efforts to dive, in the hope of freeing itself, swims rapidly, for it is said it can not go under as long as its head is above water.

As with the turtle, literally, so with men figuratively. We can not go down as long as we hold the head up with faith, *hope* and love. It is he who loses hope who goes down beneath the waves of doubt and discouragement.

A BATTLESHIP'S LOSS.

The anchor of one of the great battleships of the United States Navy was lost at sea, and the Navy Department offered $250 for its recovery, realizing that a ship without an anchor would be in a perilous position in time of storms.

When a man loses hope—"the anchor of the soul"—on the sea of life, he can not long hold out against the storms that are sure to come. During the year 1910 nearly nine thousand persons committed suicide in the United States, and on the tomb of the vast majority the story could have been told in one word, "Hope-

lessness." The discouraged ones were adrift without an anchor.

Who *loses* hope? 1 Cor. 15:19: "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable." Who *has* hope? Heb. 6:19: "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil."

HUMILITY.

THE AMARYLLIS.

Even a good person may have too much self-esteem. It was when Job said, "I abhor myself," that God gave him twice as much wealth as he had ever possessed before. In some forms of plant life, as the amaryllis, the foliage must die before the flowers of beauty can come forth.

BEST TEST OF GREATNESS.

After John Quincy Adams retired from the Presidency he served for seventeen years in the lower house of Congress. When James Madison completed his eight years in the Presidential chair, he retired to his Virginia plantation, and filled the office of justice of the peace.

If you have been honored by being chosen to serve a term or two at the head of any organization, do not hesitate to accept the appointment on some committee after your term of office has expired. He who possesses genuine humility never feels above doing helpful things. This is the best test of a great soul.

HIS GREATEST VICTORY.

When news reached Lincoln that Lee had surrendered and the officials began to make preparations to enter Richmond, the President put his foot down and said: "There shall be no triumphant entry into Richmond. There shall be no demonstration just now." He made his way to Richmond, walked through the city to the Southern Capitol, and went to Jefferson Davis' room.

He bade his two officials step aside and leave him alone. After a few minutes, one of them, out of curiosity, looked to see what had taken place, and there sat Lincoln, his head bowed on Mr. Davis' desk, his face in his hands and his tears falling. The angels of God never looked down from the battlements of heaven upon a holier scene than that. His great, sympathetic heart saved the republic. That was the greatest victory of the Civil War; that settled the struggle; that bound the North and South together, and Abraham Lincoln, like his great Master, died of a broken heart. It burst with sympathy.—*Cortland Myers.*

HYPOCRISY.

PLENTY OF ROOM.

Spurgeon promptly replied to a man who excused himself from attendance at church on the ground that one found so many hypocrites there:

"Don't let that keep you away. There's always room for one more."

OWL WITH TWO HEADS.

The papers reported the arrival of a two-headed owl on a steamer which entered New York harbor, and that its tones resembled the noise of a whistling buoy. The sound from each throat, however, was pitched in a different key.

The difference between this two-faced creature and two-faced people—who talk one way to a person's face and another to his back—is that the owl couldn't help it, and was not conscious of committing any wrong.

AGED COUNTERFEITER.

"An old man was caught in the act of casting a five-dollar gold piece, and placed under arrest by Federal officers." Similar items frequently appear in the papers. The United States Government spends large sums in detecting and punishing counter-

feiters, in order that the money circulation of our country may be kept as pure as possible.

This is commendable, but not until as much care is taken to keep our citizens pure and genuine will the just proportion of things of real importance in American life be attained.

A BOY'S "COTTON MAN."

A Southern lad who had seen a snowman in New England, wanted one like it. This he found impossible in his sunny Southern home, so he made a cotton man from raw cotton fresh from the field. We can imagine his disappointment, however, in the knowledge that it wasn't a snowman, after all. At a distance it looked just like one, but to all who came close enough the substitution was easily detected.

Those who are simply imitators appear all right at a distance, but a close acquaintanceship shows their life to be but an empty pretense.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT.

Wishing to make a favorable impression upon one whom he supposed was a man of prominence who had just stepped into his outer office—the door being ajar—a young attorney hastily took down the telephone receiver, and in a loud tone pretended to be talking to some one about an important case he was compelled to turn down because of lack of time, "being so crowded with business." His chagrin was pitiful when he turned to greet the caller, who introduced himself as Mr. Young. "I'm from the telephone company," he continued, "and I've come to *connect up your phone!*"—*Sunday School Journal.*

IN NEED OF RETOUCHING.

Most persons "fix up" when they are to have their pictures taken. The photographer tells them to "look pleasant." Are we ashamed to appear as we really are? Take a good look at your favorite picture and ask yourself: "Does that do me justice? Or

does it misrepresent me?" If you are not good-looking, "retouch" yourself, not the picture. You can bring yourself up to that standard, and it is your duty to do it. Be ashamed to be ugly, when, by posing, you can get a good-looking picture. Make the pose a habit, a *reality*. Be your best, and you will always look your best.—*A Passing Preacher.*

HAD TOO MANY NAMES.

Four hundred years ago, according to the Baltimore *News*, the people of England, except persons of royal rank, were not allowed a middle name. There was one instance of a man who was hanged because he insisted on signing four names every time he wrote his signature.

Had the laws of all countries and ages been as strict against wearing two different "faces" on occasions suiting hypocritical purposes, as England's law against having two given names, there would undoubtedly have been many less instances of double-dealing disgracing the pages of history.

A HEART OF CHARCOAL.

A tree six feet in diameter cut down in Oregon was found to contain a heart of charcoal two feet in thickness, and extending upward from the ground a distance of fifteen feet—probably all that was left of a former tree at the time of some great forest fire, and around which another had grown. Outwardly it made a good appearance, but when the time came for making it into lumber it fell short of the estimated output, based upon its size.

Let's make sure our hearts are right, that we may not fall short of the service expected of us. Let's be *all* we *appear* to be.

COULDN'T DECEIVE THE BOY.

"You needn't be afraid of him! He won't bite you!" called out a boy to a man on the sidewalk, who had suddenly jumped to one side as a barking dog stopped pulling a lawn-mower to which the boy had hitched him. "No, he wouldn't hurt you a

bit," continued the lad; "he just stops and growls at folks going along to keep from making this go. You know it's lots easier barking than working."

As the man proceeded on his way he mused:

"How much like human beings—easier to bark than work; to find fault than to help those who are doing their best to keep things going right."

HOODWINKING WILD ANIMALS.

In order to be successful in taking moving pictures of wild animals in their native haunts in the Soudan, a party of London hunters equipped themselves with two imitation ostriches and a sham giraffe. "These will be used to cover the heads of the cinematograph operators," explains the *Daily Mirror,* "who will thus be enabled to approach nearer the genuine animals than they could possibly do in the ordinary way. The imitations appear so realistic that they would delude the most wary of wild beasts into believing their relatives had come to visit them."

In the human relations of life, be on your guard against those who pose for what they are not. In the language of Job, "They conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity, and their heart prepareth deceit."

REAL AND FALSE MONEY.

Men take great risks to counterfeit money, because it is the basis of material values. For the same reason the United States Government takes every possible precaution to guard against counterfeiting, among other things placing red and blue silk fibers in every piece of paper money turned out.

Of more value than money is Christian character. That's why there are so many counterfeiters in this regard—so many who try to pass for what they are not. The genuine man or woman may be known, not only by the red and blue fibers of Sacrifice and Courage, but by the golden thread of Love running

through every act, every day of life, for Christ himself said: "By this shall all men *know* that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another." Even though he *profess* love for his fellows, the hypocrite may be easily detected at some point in the further test given in Gal. 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance."

WHY THE WALLS WERE WEAK.

When the repairs on the foundation of the great cathedral at Winchester, England, were made it was found that fraud had been perpetrated by the builders who erected it nearly a thousand years before. Instead of excavating to solid rock, they went only a depth of ten feet, and laid a foundation of logs in the mud. This accounted for the tendency of the building throughout the centuries to sink, first in one place and then in another. The dishonesty of the contractors was a long time being brought to light, but the results were manifested almost from the date the cathedral was completed.

The dishonest practices of men may be hidden for a time, but the visible effect upon their own characters is not long delayed.

MUST ALWAYS WEAR MASK.

The face of a New York man was so disfigured by an explosion of nitric acid, in 1912, that every one who saw him was either terrified or repelled. Because of his frightful appearance, his physicians informed him that he must wear a mask as long as he lived. For awhile it was difficult for him to obtain work, as the mask made people feel so queer that they disliked to have him around.

Unfortunate as it is to have the *face* disfigured, it is a small matter compared with a disfigured *conscience,* "seared as with a hot iron" (1 Tim. 4:2), "for a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." If some object to having a man around who

wears a visible mask because it makes them feel "queer," all honorable persons should be so aroused against those who wear the mask of hypocrisy as to say with the Psalmist: "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house; he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight."

INDEPENDENCE.

VERY FORGETFUL.

It is well to be independent, in certain ways, but he who *pretends* to be so will often find it a game at which two can play.

"Dear Clara," wrote a young man, "pardon me for asking. I proposed to you last night, but have really forgotten whether you said yes or no."

"Dear Will," was the reply, "I remember that I said 'No' to some one last night, but have forgotten just who it was."—*London Opinion.*

TOWER FOR A PUSH-CART.

A Los Angeles business man, says *Popular Mechanics,* made his start in life with an old push-cart, selling hot tamales. He became well-to-do and erected a building with an open tower, placing the cart there, where all passers-by could see it. At one time, when fire threatened the structure, the first thing he ordered removed was the odd vehicle.

In his days of prosperity he was proud of the reminder of his days of poverty. By the strange workings of society many are ashamed to let it be known they were ever in humble circumstances. They seek to impress others with the idea that they never had to work. They overlook the splendid fact that the man who has made all he possesses deserves great credit because of his industry, patience, self-denial and good judgment, while the one who simply lives on what some one else has made, and is doing nothing to enrich the world, is a human parasite.

MANY YEARS A HOME PRISONER.

Because a dashing young officer of the Royal Guards broke his engagement to her and married another, relates a London weekly, an eccentric woman at Stockholm lived as a prisoner in her own home up to the time of her death, in 1914. Her parents were not living, so she had sole control of her own affairs. She was so sorely disappointed that she never went out. For over seventy years she saw no other human beings than her servants, and of course had never seen trains, steamships, street-cars nor airships.

This is an instance of the lack of a degree of independence which every normal man and woman should manifest. None have a right to willfully rob the world of the good they might do in the use of the talents God has given them.

INFLUENCE.

ACCORDING TO YOU.

You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day,
By deeds that you do, by words that you say.
Men read what you write, whether faithless or true.
Say! What is the gospel according to you?

—*The Lookout.*

SOMETHING LACKING.

"I don't see why that man doesn't have more influence on his class of boys," said one speaker, of a teacher. "He gives them such beautiful talks." "The talks are well enough, but they make me think of a postage-stamp without mucilage—nothing back of them to make them stick."—*Sunday School Times.*

THE EMPTY HOUSE.

"An empty house at night is darker than no house at all," said a father to his son, who had called attention to a dark spot ahead, as they were going along a country road at night. The lights from some lives shine on the pathway of men and make

the way easier; but all that some others contribute to men is intensified darkness in a darkened world.—*Fred W. Church.*

MIGHT MEAN EITHER.

About the only reason for continuing some old sayings is that they *are* old. For instance, "A man is known by the company he keeps."

"Well," says an inquisitive person, who likes to be sure of things, "if a good man and a bad man go around together, is the good man bad, or is the bad man good?"

MORE THAN CONQUEROR.

Visiting her son, who was away attending college, a Christian woman saw in his room things that grieved her. She quietly purchased Hoffman's beautiful picture of Christ, and hung it on the wall. Months after she visited him again, and said: "William, you have made some changes in your room since I was here." Looking up to the pictured face, he said: "Mother, those things wouldn't fit in with Him."—*Rev. W. J. Hart.*

TESTIMONY OF ASSOCIATES.

In a cemetery, on a pure white stone which marked the grave of a dear little girl, were these words: "A child of whom her playmates said, 'It is easier to be good when she is with us.'"

A young man wrote to a friend who had moved away: "It is much easier for me to do right when you are around. If I could work with you, I could plow in a field of stumps with a stubborn mule team without swearing."

WHEN THE TREE FELL IN MUD.

While visiting in northern Idaho, the writer witnessed some woodsmen fell a great cedar-tree. A contrary breeze caused it to fall in a swampy place. As it struck, mud was thrown in every direction, striking all who were near. We thought, how

like the fall of a church-member! When he goes down into sin, the mud of iniquity is thrown upon all who are connected with him. His bad marks go as far as his influence reaches.—*Church and School.*

QUAINT REQUEST OF GOOD MAN.

Eli Josiah Brand, who died in England, leaving a fortune of over $200,000, had some positive convictions, and made some quaint provisions in his will, one of which was that two guineas should be paid each year to the preacher of a sermon against betting, gambling, intemperance and the inordinate love of pleasure.

The real character of men and women is no more definitely set forth by the way they spend their money while living than by the provision they make for its expenditure after they have passed away.

NAIL CAUSES SHIPWRECK.

It is on record that a single ten-penny nail in the compass-box once wrecked a ship, by so deflecting the needle that in steering by it the vessel was dashed upon the rocks.

Permit no evil thought, however small, to find lodgment in the compass-box of conscience. What seems a trifle at first may lead to an entirely different course from what you contemplated. It may mean shipwreck of all the fondest, purest hopes which now beckon you in the days of youth.

REFLECTED IN THE WATER.

At Canton, Ohio, is a granite monument 108 feet high and seventy-nine feet in diameter, erected to the memory of the beloved William McKinley, formerly President of the United States. In front of it is a basin, or artificial lake, more than five hundred feet long, in which the monument in all its beautiful outlines is reflected.

Each of us is erecting a monument in the character we are

building, and just in proportion as we make it beautiful or ugly will it be reflected in the lives of those with whom we come in contact.

SELF-QUESTIONING.

There may be paths that I can tread in safety,
Unharmed by dangers close on every hand;
Yet weaker ones, emboldened by my going,
May fail and falter where I firmly stand.
I must not merely ask if I myself, uninjured,
This place of careless mirth may enter in,
But, "What of its effect on lives less guarded?"
And, "Will it cause some weaker one to sin?"

—*Mattie M. Boteler.*

NOVEL TIMEKEEPER.

An attachment for pipe-organs in churches, connecting by a switch with the bass pedals, flashes a light in front in perfect time with the playing of the organist, thus "beating the time" for the congregation, although his movements may not be seen.

If you are endeavoring to "play the organ of life" to the best of your ability, don't worry if your actions are not paraded before the public. Your influence will go out just the same, your light shining in a way that may mean hundreds, perhaps thousands, of others "keeping correct time" in the song of life.

NOT THE MUCH OR THE LITTLE.

"She hath done what she could," said the Master, "for me;"
How tender and sweet was the word!
"And the deed she has done her memory shall be,
Wherever my gospel is heard."

Ah! 'tis this that must try every deed that we do
Ere Jesus pronounces it good;
Not the thing we have done, but the love it may show,
And whether we've done what we could.

—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

HORSE BLOCKADES BUSY STREET.

On Forty-second Street in New York City, where the ground had been torn up for repairs on the subway, leaving only the two car-tracks free for a space of perhaps twenty feet, a balky horse

stopped, with the wagon attached, in such a position as to block all traffic for a quarter of an hour.

If balky people only hindered themselves, it would not be so bad. They are so often chairmen of committees; or the able men of a church; or gifted women, who will not help because they do not feel just like it. . . . No one respects a balky horse. —*Rev. C. B. McAfee, D.D.*

FIREFLIES AS FLASHLIGHTS.

Travelers in Mexico are often impressed by the remarkable fireflies of that country. The insects congregate by thousands in forest trees, and, as if by preconcerted agreement, simultaneously flash their lights, then darken them and flash again. Their united efforts make a brilliant and beautiful sight, while the light of only one would be comparatively insignificant.

How like human beings! We often feel that our small part is hardly worth the effort, but, working in unison with many others, the light of our influence may shine upon countless lives.

THE ANCESTOR OF SCORES.

When a New Jersey woman celebrated her ninety-fourth birthday she had 112 living children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

It has been said that we "live in the hearts of those who love us." Thus, whether or not you have even one descendant in the flesh, it is possible to exert a greater influence than if you should have many. It is your privilege to so live that your memory may be cherished in love by all who know you because of your good influence upon their lives, and of the new-born hope you implanted.

A DELIGHT TO THOUSANDS.

One spring a lady who loved flowers carried with her on a trip to the South a quantity of choice seeds, and scattered them along the way. Now the passengers who travel over that rail-

way line are delighted for miles and miles to see masses of gorgeous poppies. If some one had scattered thistles instead, how different the result would have been! Jesus sowed seeds of love and helpfulness, and the flowers of happiness have been springing up ever since. Whether we intend to do so or not, we, too, are sowing some sort of seeds every day. And our pathway through life is either being marked by flowers of happiness and helpfulness, or thistles of unkindness and unhappiness.—*Mrs. B. D. Hageman.*

THREE MONTHS A MISSIONARY.

Thomas Hannay, the converted cowboy, became field secretary of the California Christian Endeavor Union, winning the love and confidence of the young people of the Pacific Coast. Finally he went as a missionary to British East Africa, and passed away at Kajabe, February 7, 1914, after having been on the field a little more than three months. Looked at from an isolated standpoint, it might seem that his sacrifice was practically in vain. But within a few months from the time the news reached California, scores, yes, several hundred, young men and women of the Golden State, influenced and impressed by his life, his faith and his death, offered themselves for foreign missionary service. Truly "God moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform."

PAID TO BE KILLED.

The *Daily Citizen* tells of an old man at Berwick, Pennsylvania, who hired another to kill him, as he was tired of life. He considered it an unpardonable sin for a person to take his own life. After his dead body had been discovered, letters were found telling of the queer compact, and beseeching the police not to search for the murderer.

One can not help but feel that the old man, instead of being guiltless of crime, as he apparently supposed, was guilty of a

double wrong—the causing of his own death and inducing another to become a criminal. Any wrong we commit must be judged, not alone by the effect it has upon us, but upon others as well.

AN INVISIBLE CLOCK.

A public clock which can be heard, but not seen, as it chimes the quarters and the hours, is one of London's curious possessions, says *Spare Moments.* It is in the tower of St. Mary Abbott's Church, Kensington, and is the only public timepiece in the neighborhood. When the tower was built in 1879 the architect objected to a clock with a face, as it would spoil the cherished proportions. A compromise was effected by installing the interior workings of a great clock in the belfry, so, while it can not be seen, it keeps time just the same, sounding it out for all the people in that part of the city.

Whether you occupy a conspicuous place or not, keep "correct time." Strike true, that all around you may be helped by your influence.

POWER OF AN IDEA.

We should be careful, in discussing wrongs, lest we present them in such a manner as to suggest evil instead of good, especially to younger persons who may be among the hearers. A Pole on his way to St. Petersburg met a thought-reader and offered to pay him a certain sum if he could divine the other's thoughts. Here is what he told him:

"You are going to the fair, where you intend to purchase goods, after which you will declare yourself bankrupt, and compound with your creditors for three per cent."

The Pole gazed at him in surprise and paid the amount promised. The thought-reader asked triumphantly:

"So I've guessed correctly?"

"No," was the answer, "but you have given me a brilliant idea."

MAGNETIZED SCHOOLROOMS.

Experiments by Professor Arrhenius, of Stockholm, seem to add one more wonderful work to the credit of electricity. He took two sets of fifty children each, of the same age and general physical condition, and placed one set in an ordinary schoolroom; the other, in a room the walls of which contained wires bearing continuous high-frequency alternating currents. At the end of six months the fifty children in this room had added an average of two inches to their height, and made an average of more than ninety per cent. in their studies, while those in the ordinary room gained a trifle more than an inch and a sixth in height, and made an average of only seventy-five per cent. in their studies.—*San Francisco Examiner.*

The difference in the moral and spiritual influence upon children in homes and schools where the atmosphere is charged with all that is pure and uplifting, and where such influences are lacking, is even more marked than the difference in the physical and mental attainments above mentioned.

AS GROWS THE TREE.

The way of the weaving of human influence exerted by many different personalities, working together for the accomplishing of one purpose, is beautifully pictured in a letter written by Dr. F. A. Horton, of Philadelphia, in March, 1903, which was read at an anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church in Oakland, California, where he had formerly served as pastor:

"Many whom my memory places there are now removed or translated. Many whom I never saw, fill the vacant places. But, then or there, it is the old church still. The living entity is not in men and women, as individuals, but as merged by heavenly act into one whole, so that, however men may come and go, they fill their little round, like the leaves of a season, then fall, while the tree lives on. I greatly rejoice that, could human skill trace it, a Horton fiber would be found running side by side with an

Eell, a Sprecher, a Coyle, a Baker, and others who have preceded and others who shall follow, all woven by the hand of God into a tree of strength and beauty and usefulness."

A CONTINUING LIFE.

Fifty years ago a young man took charge of an academy in a small town in Maine. Three years later, at the beginning of the Civil War, he left his work as a teacher to enter the Union Army, and was killed in one of the battles. Near the close of the half-century from the time the young man departed from the school, one of his pupils sought to find how many of those he had taught were still living. She received letters from about a hundred, engaged in various callings, each telling how, in different ways, they owed much of what they valued most in their lives to the teacher who died so long ago. Fifty of them gathered on the very ground where the academy once stood, and in memory revived the old days of such precious influence. They placed there, under a big elm which he had planted, a boulder with his name and an inscription upon it. The tree was indeed a fitting monument. As the teacher had determined the place for the tree and assured its life, so he had been an important factor in determining the character and service of every one in that company. So, friend, may your influence be, if you will it thus.

THE BROKEN VASE.

The *Biblical Museum* tells of a nobleman of dissolute habits who visited the famous Wedgewood potteries, and, in the presence of a lad who worked there, spoke contemptuously of religion. The boy, who was the son of pious parents, at first looked amazed, then interested, and at last burst into a loud, jeering laugh. The owner of the potteries, who was a devout Christian, a little later showed the visitor a wonderful vase, explaining the process of making. The nobleman expressed his delight, and, just as he reached for it, the potter threw it down,

shattering it to pieces. The stranger rebuked him for his carelessness, saying he wished to take it home for his collection. Mr. Wedgewood replied:

"Do you forget, my lord, that the soul of that lad who just left us came innocent into the world; that parents, friends, all good influences, have been at work during his whole life to make him a vessel fit for the Master's use; that you, with your touch, have undone the work of years? No human hand can bind together again what you have broken."

The nobleman stared at him in silence, then said:

"You are an honest man," frankly holding out his hand. "I never thought of the effect of my words."

INGENUITY.

MIKE'S GUESS.

We may smile at the blunders of persons who always pretend to know something about everything that comes up, but oftentimes there is cause for admiring their ingenuity. The proprietor of a lumber-yard had a new hand, and wondered what kind of an impression he would make for the good of business if left alone at times, and if some new condition should arise, so went out, telling Mike he would be gone for an hour.

After a time he called him up on the phone, and, disguising his voice, said:

"Send me one thousand knot-holes this afternoon. I live at—"

"Sorry, soire, but we are out av thim. Jist sold thim to the brewery."

"To the brewery," repeated the man, much perplexed; "what does the brewery want of knot-holes?"

"Faith, an' Oi didn't ask thim," replied Mike, perfectly composed, "but it's plain to be seen, soire, that they need thim fur bung-holes in the barrels. So long, soire!"

SWINGING WATER TO COOL IT.

The native women of Central America make water cool for drinking purposes by swinging it vigorously through the air, in earthen or clay jars, fastened at the neck to two straps. The movement is so swift that no water drops out, just as is the case when a boy swings a pail of water over his head. It is hard work, but results in making water, which in its ordinary state is disagreeable and unfit to drink, almost as deliciously cool as if it had been placed on ice.

Many disagreeable things in life may be made pleasant and helpful by the use of a little ingenuity and muscle.

JESUS.

INSPIRER OF ALL.

And so we have Him, a Galilean carpenter. Not a physician, but the master of all human ills. Not a lawyer, but the expounder of the elemental principles of all laws. Not an author, but the inspirer of the living literature of the world. Not a poet or musician, but the soul and inspiration of all song and all music. Not an artist, but the unfailing light of the great masters, old and new. Not an architect, but the soul-transformer and character-builder of all times. Not a statesman, but the state and institution founder of the race. And, more wonderful than all, a man blameless and unscarred by sin, or taint of wrong.—*J. Frank Hanly.*

LIVING WORDS.

Kaiser Wilhelm II., the German Emperor, made a memorable address to his sons, the princes August Wilhelm and Oscar, on the day of their confirmation. Among many other things he said:

"Your religious teacher has emphasized the idea that you are to become 'personalities.' There can be no doubt whatever that

our Lord has been the 'most personal personality' that has ever wandered about on this earth among the children of men. You have read words and sayings of many great men—savants, statesmen, kings, princes, poets—which ennobled you and even filled you with enthusiasm. Not one of them is to be compared to any single word spoken by our Lord. The word of man has never been able uniformly to inspire people of all races and of all nations to attain the same aim, to endeavor to be like him, and even to give their lives for him. This miracle can only be explained from the fact that the words he spoke were the words from the living God, which awaken life and which remain alive, even after a period of many thousands of years, while the words of savants are long forgotten."

Jesus himself said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

THE CHRIST OF THE ANDES.

Far up on the heights of the Andes, on the border-line between two republics of South America, Chile and Argentina, stands a great statue of Christ, with one hand upraised and the other clasping a cross. On a bronze tablet at the base are these words:

"Sooner shall these mountains crumble into dust than Argentines and Chileans break the peace to which they have pledged themselves at the feet of Christ, the Redeemer."

The monument was cast of old cannon and was erected in 1904 to commemorate a treaty of peace following a dispute verging on war concerning the boundary-line between the two countries. The figure of Christ, in bronze, is twenty-six feet in height, mounted on a granite base twenty-two feet high. One result of the treaty was that within a few years Chile spent $10,000,000 on good roads instead of using the money for warships.

JUDGMENT.

MUST BE FULL WEIGHT.

In the Bank of England is a machine through which gold coins pass for the purpose of determining whether or not they are full weight. If any come short of the exact requirement, the machine throws them to one side. "Here is a judgment-day for you," said one in speaking of the machine. "There can be no partialities nor excusings. The only hope lies in being of standard weight."

EITHER UP OR DOWN.

Holding in my hand a stone and an inflated toy balloon, I let go of both at the same time. One ascends and the other descends. They rest only when they find adjustment. If you go down, it will be because that is the natural course for such manhood as yours. But on the shores of eternity stands a great Father who delights to see men come up to dwell with him. You can rise to him if you have received his nature and assimilated your life to his. Judgment is adjustment.—*Homiletic Review.*

"ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS."

During the trial of a case against a shoe-manufacturing company, in the United States District Court in Boston, it was necessary to explain to the judge the working of the machinery and the process of manufacture. Instead of much technical testimony, counsel for the defense introduced moving pictures, showing every detail. The court expressed great satisfaction with the innovation, the presiding judge stating that the pictures conveyed a much clearer impression than any amount of verbal testimony, and also saved valuable time.

After awhile, when we stand before the Judge of all the world, it will not be what we have to *say* of ourselves, but what

the records reveal of our *actions* in life. Our *deeds* rather than our *words* will tell the story.

THE TRUE RECORD.

On one occasion a man came to a livery-stable and rented a horse and buggy to make a trip of a certain number of miles, promising to pay accordingly. He meant to deceive the owner, and drove twice as far. The liveryman had placed on the axle of the buggy a small instrument to register the revolutions of the wheel and the number of miles traveled. He surprised the man when he opened the instrument and faced him in his falsehood. God has placed in our hearts something that records the acts of life, whether they be good or bad, and at the last great day, when the books are opened, we shall be forced to look upon our own lives, which have been exposed to the gaze of the whole world.—*W. H. Book, in The Lookout.*

CRIMINALS OUTWITTED.

Two questionable characters, under arrest on suspicion of committing a most sensational murder in a certain city, had gone through the "third degree" successfully, and apparently would soon be released. The chief of police, however, by the aid of a "telo-detective," accomplished what all of the sleuths had failed to do. *Popular Mechanics* tells how it was done:

"An extremely sensitive transmitter was secreted behind the coping on top of the partition separating cell No. 13 from 14, and the conversation between Johnson and Bill was produced at the receiving end of the circuit, four hundred feet away. The conversation coming to him in easily understood tones, the stenographer was able to record it word for word," and thus what amounted to a confession was obtained, to the great surprise of the suspects. Many similar instances of the use made of the telo-detective are on record.

In Luke 12:3 are these words of Christ: "Whatsoever ye

have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light, and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops."

KINDNESS.

WHEN RIDERS FALL.

Says a London paper: "A running horse will always try to avoid stepping on a fallen rider, and for this reason it is a standing order in our cavalry regiments that if a trooper is dismounted he must lie perfectly still."

If dumb animals will strive to avoid stepping on a man who has fallen, how much more should men and women avoid trampling on those who have fallen in the battle of life. More than this, they should stop and help them up.

HELPING THE HELPLESS.

As Lincoln and some friends were out walking one windy day they found two birdlings lying on the ground. Lifting them up and warming them in his hands, Lincoln went in search of their nest, finding it in an apple-tree, in which the parent birds were twittering anxiously. He put the tiny creatures carefully in the nest. His friends laughed at him, but he only said: "I could not have slept to-night if I had not first seen those babies safe under their mother's wing."—*Selected.*

THE WORKMAN'S RULE.

In one of Dr. Parkhurst's books he tells of a workman riding in a trolley-car, who observed that as the door was opened and shut it squeaked, so he quietly took a little can from his pocket and dropped some oil upon the offending spot, saying, as he resumed his seat: "I always carry an oil-can, for there are so many squeaky things in this world that a little oil will help." Dr. Parkhurst applies this to life, saying we can often soften attacks and prevent many unpleasant frictions if we always

have love, and will speak the gentle, kindly word at the right time.

WHY CAR WAS SIDETRACKED.

A sparrow had built its nest in a freight-car lying in the shop for repairs, and when it was ready for service again the mother-bird would not desert her young. The sympathy of the train-men was touched. They notified the division superintendent, who ordered that the car be left out of commission until the little birds were able to care for themselves. If a great railroad system can be ordered so as to protect helpless sparrows, is it hard to believe that the great Superintendent of the universe orders all things for the good of his children?—*James D. Lawson.*

FEARS CONFIRMED.

One of the best rules in the world is to say nothing about a person to others that you would not willingly say to him personally. They who do otherwise often have cause to regret it.

Usher, to stranger: "Glad to welcome you, madam. Am sorry our pastor was away to-day. You would have heard a much abler discourse."

"I have not the least doubt," was the reply, as the lady made a brave effort to smile. "It was my husband who preached here this morning. He himself felt that his sermon might be a disappointment to the congregation."

THE EXAMPLE THAT COUNTS.

While holding meetings in Egypt among some soldiers I asked a big sergeant in a Highland regiment how he was brought to Christ. His answer was: "There is a private in our company who was converted in Malta before the regiment came on to Egypt. We gave that fellow an awful time. One night he came in from sentry duty, very tired and wet, and before going to bed he got down to pray. I struck him on the side of his head

with my boots, and he just went on with his prayers. Next morning I found my boots beautifully polished by the side of my bed. That was his reply to me. It just broke my heart, and I was saved that day."—*Rev. J. Stuart Holden.*

WHAT SAVED TOMMY.

Ernest K. Coulter, clerk of the first juvenile court in New York City, told the judge he wished to look after a boy who had been arrested for "swiping" goods. He went to see the boy's mother, and said to her: "I should like to have a little brother. I want to come down here and see Tommy every once in awhile, and he'll be up to spend an evening at my house each week, say. Then, if you don't mind, he and I will go to the Hippodrome occasionally; and when the baseball season opens, perhaps he'd like to see some of the big games."

This actually happened less than seven years ago. Tommy is now in the assistant paying-teller's cage in a downtown bank. And so the Big Brother movement has spread into fifty cities of the United States, Canada and Australia.—*Rev. Cowan, in Christian Endeavor World, January,* 1914.

RIGHT OF WAY FOR SQUIRREL.

One of the tame squirrels in Boston Common had been in the habit of crossing the street, climbing up a fruit-stand to the eaves of Park Street Church, then scampering over its roof to the elms in the burying-ground, for a good time in the grass enclosed by the great iron fence. Once when the little animal wanted to return to his home in the busiest time of the day he found the street filled with carriages, autos and other vehicles, and a steady stream of people coming and going. He hopped as far as the curbstone, then turned back, repeating the movement several times, panting with fear. A big policeman saw the squirrel and his dilemma. The officer stepped out, held up his stick, and the people all knew that meant they must halt. A

wide-open gap was made from curb to curb. The squirrel saw his chance and darted through to the Common. For a full minute everybody was standing still so as to let the little squirrel get back to his home.—*Tarbell's Teachers' Guide.*

THE HORSE KNEW IT.

In Southern California lived a stage-driver who loved to tell his passengers how he cured his horse of bad habits: "The meanest horse you ever saw," he said, "but now I wouldn't wish for a better one. You see, he had an awful temper; would kick and rear, and often bit me. When he acted cranky I would kick him and lay on the whip, but it only made things worse. Finally I turned over a new leaf. I began praying, and my own family didn't find it out any sooner than that horse. When he began to act cranky I would speak kindly to him, and didn't whip him nor jerk the lines like I had done before. Well, sir, a more puzzled horse you never saw. He would look at me as if he couldn't make out what ailed me, and after a little began to act as gentle as a kitten. I never have any trouble with him now."

SURPRISED THE REPORTER.

During one of his Congressional campaigns Mr. McKinley was followed from place to place by a reporter for a paper of the opposite political party. One night Mr. McKinley took a closed carriage for a near-by town at which he was announced to speak. He had not gone far when he heard a cough, and at once surmised that the reporter was riding with the driver; for he had observed before that the young man was not well and was poorly clad. The Major ordered the hack stopped, alighted and commanded the reporter to come down. He quickly obeyed, thinking the time for the Major's vengeance was at hand. "Here," said Mr. McKinley, taking off his overcoat, "you put this on and get into the carriage." "But," said the reporter, "I guess you don't know who I am. I have been with you in the

whole campaign, giving it to you every time you spoke, and I am going over to-night to rip you to pieces, if I can." "I know," said McKinley, "but you put on this coat, and get inside and get warm, so you can do a good job."—*The Chautauquan.*

OIL ON TROUBLED WATERS.

Wrecked and leaking ships, lashed by raging waters, have been reached by rescuing parties from other ships, and the endangered passengers saved, by the simple process of pouring oil on the distressed sea. *Popular Mechanics,* in commenting upon such instances, gives this information: "Few people have a clear conception of the almost miraculous effect a small amount of oil has on wave-motion. A drop of oil will spread itself over seven square feet of water, and nine pints of oil are sufficient to cover a square mile of sea surface."

Many a jangling household, or group of persons in some assembly, has been restored to a peaceful calm by one kind word, while a whole neighborhood has been made better because of some person "going about doing good," scattering the oil of gladness on the troubled community.

PRISONERS LIVE HIGH.

The twentieth century witnessed the introducing of jails in the upper stories of high buildings, which not only carries out one of the principal purposes of imprisonment—that of making escape as difficult as possible—but is more humane, as it affords an abundance of light and pure air. In the magnificent city hall at Oakland, California, prisoners are kept on the twelfth and thirteenth floors.

In the olden times prisoners were confined in dungeons, and the more dismal they could be made the better they were supposed to serve their purpose. When the prophet Jeremiah was placed in a dungeon where he sank in the mire, Ebed-melech, an Ethiopian, made such an earnest plea before King Zedekiah

in behalf of Jeremiah that he was taken out and placed in the court of the guard.

There should be Ebed-melechs in every community pleading for the abolishment of all kinds of cruelties in the treatment of prisoners. At the very least, they are entitled to an abundance of the sunshine and air with which God has surrounded the earth.

KNOWLEDGE.

NEW TIE EVERY DAY.

A Baltimore man has the distinction of wearing a new necktie every day—and some days he wears two or three. He gives away most of them, but at one time had over five hundred dollars' worth on hand. He is always very careful to wear one that harmonizes with the rest of his clothing.

Harmony of conduct with the highest possible ideals and the acquiring of useful, helpful knowledge every day is far more important than this man's hobby.

IN THE SAFE CHANNEL.

"Captain, do you know where all the rocks are?" queried a passenger on a steamer on the St. Lawrence River, in the bed of which are many dangerous places. "No," he replied, "but I know where the channel is."

When you hear any one arguing that it is well to be familiar with the places of evil in a community as a warning to leave them alone, quote the sensible words of this captain. The important thing is *not* to know the places of sin and danger, but to know the safe channel and follow its course.

FOUR HUNDRED CENTURIES AGO.

According to some of the famous Nippur tablets stored at the University of Pennsylvania, the children of forty-two hundred years ago were imparted knowledge in arithmetic, geography, history and grammar just like the children of to-day.

The multiplication-tables were found remarkably distinct, plainly showing that "three times one are three, and five times one are five."

As in the education of the human mind there are foundation principles which never change, so is there in each human heart something akin to all other human hearts, for all have the same heavenly Father. As God commanded the children of Israel, so is the exhortation in Deut. 6:5-7 applicable to every one of the millions of earth to-day: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt *teach them diligently* unto thy children."

THE AGE OF THE EARTH.

Bible students, who may be censured for not agreeing in their chronological deductions, should feel no uneasiness on that account. The most thorough research of scientists along many lines emphasizes no one thing so much as their astonishing disagreements. For instance, in the *Literary Digest* of December 27, 1913, under the heading, "How Old is the Earth?" the statement is made that five different methods of reaching conclusions have been used, one of which is that of utilizing the saltness of the sea.

"It is *assumed* that all the sodium chloride in the sea has been taken by the rains from the land. . . . By this method Joly found 95,000,000 of years; E. von Romer, 160,000,000."

You will observe there is only a slight difference of 65,000,000! Then, the method founded on "the disintegration of radio-active material" is taken up, the estimates running from 8,000,000 to 1,025,000,000 years. This time a variation of only 1,017,000,000 years!

These so-called estimates are about as reliable and valuable as would be the guesses by children of the number of grains of sand in the world.

LIFE.

THE PACE THAT KILLS.

Many people think there is a tremendous lot to be done, and that we are the only people on earth who can do it. Christ didn't feel that he was indispensable. Frenzied life is nothing but infidelity. Nervous prostration on the part of Christ would have wrecked the gospel. The pace that kills, even though it kills by inches, is suicide just as truly as taking life by a single slash of the razor.—*Dr. Parkhurst.*

MANY YEARS ON THE SEA.

The oldest life-boat in existence is the "Zetland," an English ship, says London *Answers.* It was built in 1800, and for sixty-four years was in active service, during which time it was instrumental in saving 526 lives. On her 111th birthday her glorious achievements were affectionately recalled, and it was said that, if necessary, the good ship could still answer the call of duty.

If there is a feeling of pride in a ship that has been used of men for the saving of many human lives, how much more should we feel proud of men and women who have been used of Christ for the saving of many human souls, in the few swiftly passing years allotted them; for man moves rapidly through the shifting scenes of his earthly career. We often feel the force of the words of Job, "My days are passed away as the swift ships," and appreciate the warning of Solomon, "Boast not thyself of to-morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

WHERE SPARTANS FAILED.

Lycurgus, who lived about 900 B. C., succeeded in making the Spartans a marvelous race from a physical standpoint, but, overlooking the need of all-around development, they weakened and

passed from the stage of action after a few hundred years of existence. In accordance with the plans of Lycurgus, weak children were killed at birth. Gymnasiums were established in all parts of Sparta. For persons from seven to sixty years of age the drill was perpetual. The work was done by slaves of another race. Males were not called men until thirty years old. They lived on plain food, and were inured to hunger, thirst, heat and cold. Not even the women were allowed to indulge in any emotion. Their sons were told, in leaving for battle, to "return with your shield or on it."

The result was a race of physical fighters such as the world has seldom known—and that was all. The Spartans might have been a people mighty in good works and influence had they said to Lycurgus and other leaders: "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

IF THERE WERE NO DEATH.

"Imagine death arrested in its work! What would happen?" asks Prof. W. P. Bartlett, then proceeds: "In its superabundance life would suffocate and crush out life itself. One fly could produce 20,000,000 in a single summer. At the end of five summers of free propagation there would be 3,200,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 flies. In six years one codfish would fill the ocean full and running over with a progeny of 64,081,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. From the bottom to the top of the scale the scene is the same. The greater the propagating power of species, the greater and more rapid is the work of death, so as to preserve the equilibrium, without which all life would cease. One need but give a few minutes' thought to this before understanding why there is death; why, after all, it is only by death we live."

In the highest, truest sense is the last statement of Professor Bartlett true. Man does not look upon the earth as his abiding-place. "Here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to

come." It is the Christian's wonderful privilege to say: "Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or death. To me to live is Christ, and *to die is gain.*"

TWO PROCESSIONS.

It has been estimated that thirty-six million babies are born into the world each year; that if carried in their mothers' arms, single file, the procession halting not by night or day, it would require six years to pass one point.

It is said a great general once wept after reviewing his troops, because the thought came to him with great force that every man in his vast army, now strong and vigorous, must some day pass into the embrace of death. And so it is. If the dying of earth could pass our doors in hearses, in double file, the procession to the cemeteries would never cease.

We read in Eccl. 1:4: "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh." Each human life is a part of the great whole, given the wonderful privilege to "fight the good fight of faith," and to "lay hold on *eternal life.*"

LITTLE THINGS.

HELPED BY THE ENEMY.

History records the suffering of a besieged city for water. At a time when it seemed that the people would perish of thirst, a shell from the enemy tore a hole in the hillside and a spring burst forth.

POINT OF CONTACT.

The switch in a telephone is a very small part of the instrument, and yet so essential that the entire system is useless until you have taken down the receiver and thus connected your phone, by means of the switch, with the wire leading to "Central."

A heart of love may seem a very small thing, yet it is the connecting switch between us and God, placing us in such a posi-

tion that he can speak, *through us,* to the outside world, that our words and deeds may count for good to those with whom we associate.

HEARING RESTORED BY A KICK.

A Delaware farmer, who had been deaf for several years, was kicked on the head by a mule and rendered unconscious. When he recovered he was surprised to find he could hear the slightest noise.

Misfortunes frequently prove blessings in disguise.

TEXAS-FEVER TICKS.

It is estimated that before the establishment of the United States Bureau of Plant Industry the insects of the country annually destroyed farm products worth $1,000,000,000. The Texas-fever tick has been known to kill, in a single year, cattle worth $60,000,000.

We should not be willing to excuse in ourselves any fault, no matter how small it may seem. Enough little ones may offset the good points to such an extent as to render our lives practically worthless, so far as influence for good upon others is concerned.

WHAT ONE TESTAMENT DID.

As a Swede, coming direct from his native country, landed at Ellis Island, a worker of the New York Bible Society offered him a Swedish New Testament. The Swede stopped, apparently startled, saying: "Weren't you here twenty-six years ago? I think you are the same man—yes, you *are* the same man." The other answered that he had been doing such work there for twenty-eight years, giving to each immigrant a book in his mother tongue. "Well," said the Swede, "twenty-six years ago I landed here a stranger, and you gave me a New Testament in the Swedish language, just as you offered me one now. I read it and became a Christian. After a few years I made up my

mind to be a preacher, and for twenty years I have been preaching the gospel in Colorado. It all began with you giving me a New Testament."—*The Lutheran.*

THE MAN TOOK TIME.

A prominent business man was accosted on the street by a boy who wanted to know the location of the public library. He found that the youth wanted a book on electricity, went with him to the library and saw that he got it. The little act of courtesy proved to be the means of starting the boy on a road that led him away from the street corner and the "gang," and finally landed him in a good technical school.—*Martha Tarbell.*

WHAT THE HAIR TELLS.

Insignificant as it is in size, each human hair holds a coloring pigment, according to a writer in London *Answers.* It may be brown, black, red or flaxen; but when the coloring-matter fails, the hair adopts the dreaded gray.

The wonderful structure of each separate hair, and the words of Jesus in Matt. 10:30, "The very hairs of your head are all numbered," and that not a sparrow falls to the ground without the notice of the heavenly Father, impress upon us the lesson that everything, no matter how small, has its place in God's plan of the world.

THE PEN AND THE SWORD.

Dr. L. K. Hishberg says that Napoleon's poor penmanship had much to do with his defeat at Waterloo. He had written a note to his lieutenant, General Grouchy, in which he intended to say: "The battle is on." The general read it, "The battle is won," and so with his thirty-four thousand trained French veterans leisurely made his way toward Waterloo, comfortably taking his time. Dr. Hishberg adds:

"Napoleon was a master of the sword, but not of the pen, and Waterloo is by no means the only battle that has been lost

because the leader, while skilled in big things, has failed in little ones."

CLERKS WERE SURPRISED.

The employes of the post-office of an Ohio town saved the short pieces of twine which came wrapped around the bundles of letters, winding them into a ball. At the end of four years it was twenty-nine inches in diameter, weighed seventy-five pounds and contained an estimated length of thirty miles.

The short pieces of spare time that come wrapped around the doings of each day in the average person's life would, if systematically saved by applying to the pursuit of some helpful line of study or reading, result in the accumulation of a vast amount of useful knowledge.

SMALL BEGINNINGS.

A snowflake is so very small
We scarcely think of it at all;
And yet enough of them will make
A barrier we can not break.

A drop of water is so slight
That as it falls it fades from sight;
And yet enough of them will be
A torrent or a raging sea.

A word is but a breath of air,
'Tis heard or spoken without care;
Yet words in fierce profusion hurled,
Upset the history of the world.

—Grit.

JUST DRIVING NAILS.

A box-maker, who had worked at his trade fifty years, drove nine hundred million nails. It was estimated that, if laid end to end, these nails would reach seven times around the world. Such a task, viewed prospectively, would seem almost impossible. And yet it was done, one nail at a time, blow after blow, patiently, persistently, the hours, days, weeks, months and years coming and going with unvarying measure.

Friend, if to you any task seems long and difficult, think of

this man with his nine hundred million nails. As he filled his place, so may you fill yours—not by worrying over it, but by meeting each moment with its opportunities. One moment at a time, remember, is all you have to account for. Smile, and trust the future to God.

KEPT AS A SOUVENIR.

When Grover Cleveland completed his last term as President of the United States he took with him a check he never cashed. At that time the salary was $50,000 a year. He was paid $4,166.67 two months in each quarter, and the third month he received $4,166.66. At the end of his last term it was found that one cent was still due him, and a check for that amount was drawn in his favor. He so treasured it as a souvenir that he never permitted it to pass from his possession.

Many a little act of kindness within our power to bestow is withheld because it *is* small. It may be the very thing the recipient will prize the most, and hold to with loving memory long after many more pretentious acts have been forgotten.

RESULT OF A SUGGESTION.

Albert P. Terhune, in the San Francisco *Bulletin,* said that Harriet Beecher Stowe, while a resident of Brunswick, Maine, in 1851, received a letter from a sister in the West, launching forth into a bitter attack on slavery, in which was this sentence:

"Hattie, if I could use a pen as you can, I would write something that would make this whole nation feel what an accursed thing slavery is!"

The result of the suggestion was the wonderful book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which had a sale of half a million copies within a few months, and which was later translated into nineteen languages.

"More than any one other cause," says Mr. Terhune, "did 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' lead to the Civil War. The spark struck

by the book spread until the whole North American continent was ablaze, and the fire was not quenched until four years of warfare had forever stamped out slavery from the United States."

VALUE OF A LETTER.

The dropping of the letter "s" in beginning the last word in the following paragraph of war news shows how easily tragedy may be turned into comedy: "The conflict was dreadful, and the enemy was repulsed with great laughter."

Here is a news item given an entirely different meaning from that intended, by dropping the letter "b": "A man was arrested yesterday on the charge of having eaten a cabman for demanding more than his fare."

As each letter, however small it may seem, has its place in conveying the right meaning of something, so each kind act, be it ever so small, has its place in giving each day the right setting in a well-ordered life.

A MACHINE OF EXTREMES.

In the work of the Bureau of Standards, maintained by the United States Government, no factor is considered small enough to be ignored, no expense too great, and no labor too exacting. One of the giant testing machines which can exert a pressure of over two million pounds, and register the degree of pressure with great accuracy, will immediately crush an egg-shell and likewise correctly register the pressure required in that operation.

The truly great man is invariably known as one who considers no opportunity for expressing kindness too small to be used by him. It was said of a certain Chief Justice that when a grandchild would sometimes search him out he would at once drop all business to pick up the little one and fondle it. On one occasion when Senators and other men of note were waiting to see one of our Presidents—Woodrow Wilson—he was entertaining some children who had called on him. He could rise to

the consideration of the most important matters of state with appropriate thoughtfulness, and with just as much consideration give a few glad moments to boys and girls.

ONLY A VISITING-CARD.

The interferometer measures wave-lengths so short that seventy-five thousand would cover only an inch. Mr. Haskin says of this: "One may step up to it and measure for himself the wave-lengths of light. To illustrate, a bar of steel three feet by three and one-half inches may be bent by a visiting-card, and the infinitesimal bending perceived by this remarkable instrument."

Some one gave you a smile once, thinking nothing of it, perhaps considering it too infinitesimal to be of the least consequence, but with that remarkable instrument, the heartometer, possessed by you in common with all of us, the smile was weighed and became a part of the many influences which have helped in molding your character.

No blade of grass is too small to be a part of the meadow; no fiber too insignificant to be a part of the great oak. There is nothing great or powerful that is not made up of atoms.

LOVE.

ENOUGH TO SATISFY.

Seeing the ocean for the first time, a poor London woman exclaimed: "Thank God for the sight of something of which there is enough!" It is so when the soul gets its first vision of the infinite fullness of God's grace in Jesus Christ.—*Rev. W. Hetherington.*

SHE NEVER GAVE UP.

The pitiful vigil of "Linden Julie" in Berlin was ended only by her death. Crazed by grief, she had stood each day for forty-four years near the Brandenburg gate awaiting the return of her

soldier lover from the Franco-Prussian War. During all that time of anxious waiting she had been a familiar figure to passers-by.

BETWEEN BOY AND LION.

Frederick Arnot, the missionary explorer, once saved the life of a black lad by springing between him and a lion. The chief of the tribe, upon hearing of the incident, said: "I'd go anywhere with a white man who throws himself between a lion and a black lad of no account." Such is the spirit of Africa's missionaries.—*American Church Magazine.*

WHEN BROTHERS QUARRELED.

I knew of two brothers who had a quarrel. The mother could not reconcile them. She could not sleep. Her prayers went up night after night. One of the sons saw how she felt and was sorry for her, so bought a costly gift and took it to her. "I don't want any gift," she said; "I want you to be reconciled to your brother." God doesn't want your gifts until you are reconciled.—*H. J. Geyer.*

LOVE AND LIFE.

Keep love in your life, my friend,
If you would have perfect joy;
Keep love, never let her depart—
For who would his life destroy?
For life's no longer than love, my friend;
When love is no more, 'tis the journey's end,
And Regret and Fear shall your way attend—
Keep love in your life, my friend.

—*Selected.*

LOVED AND UNLOVELY.

Years ago a plain Methodist preacher stood for days in the seething streets of the East End of London, muddy with men and women. He drank it all in, and loved it because of the souls he saw. He went home and said to his wife: "Darling, I have given myself, I have given you and the children, to the service

of those sick souls." She smiled and took his hand, and together they knelt and prayed. That was the beginning of the Salvation Army; of the great work of William Booth.—*Herald of Holiness.*

THE GIFT OF THE KING.

The "Traveler's Guide in Life" tells of a woman who was very sick and whose daughter approached the son of a king, wishing to buy for her a bunch of luscious grapes from the ruler's garden. With his own hands the son cut a fine bunch of the rich fruit, which he gave to the astonished child, saying: "My father does not sell; he gives." Eternal life is the gift of God, through his Son.

HEART EXPANSION.

One class of individuals lays stress upon mental equipment; another, upon physical development. The man with the greatest knowledge is confined to a very small circle, in comparison with the vast realm of the unknown. The physical giant is but a pigmy contrasted with the forces of nature. The greatest man in the world is the one possessing the largest soul-development, with a heart expansion of twenty-five thousand miles. His circle of influence and interest in life reaches around the world. "The greatest of these is love."

IDEAL FRIENDSHIP.

"I think that one of the most peculiarly sweet affections is that existing between a big, sturdy boy and his mother," says a writer in the Dallas *News*. "She seems to say: 'Here is my joy, and maybe my protector and support in years to come.' And he: 'This is my dear little mother. I am going to do great things for her when I get to be a man.' Such a boy will never break his mother's heart. She seems to feel sure of this. Only such a boy can have such a mother. Only such a mother can have such a son."

SAVED HIS STATUE.

In an art gallery in Paris is a famous statue which was the last work of a great genius. When it was all but finished, a sudden frost fell upon Paris one night. The sculptor, who was poor, awoke and at once thought of the moist clay, and the danger of the dream of a lifetime being ruined. So the old man arose and wrapped the bed-clothes around his work. In the morning he was found dead, but his statue lived. It should be thus with the image of Christ we are forming within us. We should be glad to give up everything else for the sake of it.—*Christian Endeavor World.*

RED COATS OF THE WOODS.

Hunters in a vast region of the Northwest wear red coats and hats, as a matter of safety, that they may not be mistaken by others for wild animals moving about in the thick forests and underbrush.

History furnishes numerous instances of how missionaries and others who have been kind and helpful to wild tribes of people have been spared in times of great peril, not because they wore any certain kind of clothing, but because they had put on Christ, and had heeded the words given in Col. 3:14: "Above all these things, *put on love,* which is the bond of perfectness."

THE SECRET OF IT ALL.

Joining an anxious mother in the search for her lost boy, I was struck with the contrast between her eager look, intense emotion and restless energy, and the dull, listless apathy of the other by-passers in the busy streets. She had lost a son; that was the secret of it all. She could take no rest but in seeking.—*Family Magazine.*

In all the pages of history the eager, anxious, sympathetic, sacrificing life of Christ stands out in marvelous contrast with that of all others. His one supreme mission was to seek and to

save the lost. His followers have no right to be dull, careless, listless, indifferent, in the discharge of a duty so sacred and so vital.

BETTER THAN MILLIONS.

After mourning their son as dead, Capt. and Mrs. Jacob A. Muller, of near San Francisco, received a letter from him in the State of Washington, saying he was alive and well and would soon be home. He had been absent eight years, roaming in many lands, and during that time they had heard no word from him. He had his life insured in their favor before leaving home, and the insurance company had paid the money—something over $1,000. So rejoiced were the parents that their son was living, that Captain Muller at once returned the money.

"The boy alive is a million times better than all the money in the world," said the happy father to the astonished insurance officials.

"WE, THE HUMAN."

I know something of the great emotions which flood the human soul. I have watched the splendors of sunrise and sunset, of moon and star, storm and calm at sea. I have seen the snow-capped hills, canyons and cataracts, but there is no emotion akin to that inspired by standing in the midst of a human throng in New York, aliens from afar, children of the bondmen of serfs, hoary-headed members of a martyred race, and hear all of their varied tongues blend into speech, all their thoughts blend into one feeling. Then you feel the rushing of a mighty wind, for that is Pentecost, the supremest moment of one's life, when you can disembowel yourself of hate and prejudice; when, as with a new birth, you can stand amid the strife of states and nations and races and classes, and feel all the human race say, *"We, the human."* When the church gets this new universalism, she will get her Pentecost.—*Prof. E. A. Steiner, at Men and Religion Congress, New York,* 1912.

THE PATCHED GARMENT.

In acknowledging the receipt of a keepsake—a waist belonging to a friend who had passed away—a young lady wrote these significant words:

"There is a little hole in it that she had patched, which makes it all the dearer to me."

It isn't the money value of a gift or keepsake that we prize most. It's the memories revived by it; the emotions, the deep feelings of the heart stirred into quicker, warmer beating. It isn't some great thing we may be able to do for God's cause that will count most in his sight; it's the giving to him of our poor, patched-up lives, which we have tried so hard to make presentable to him, because we love him and his cause.

THE GIFT OF A CHILD.

Losing practically every cent he had in the world, writes Mrs. R. W. Lowe, a certain business man went to his desk, and, with his head bowed in despair, was thinking of a possible way of ending his life, when his little girl came up to him with the question: "What does 'ruined' mean, papa?" Speaking tenderly, he replied: "It means I haven't any money, baby. Papa's a poor man."

The little feet pattered away, then back again, bringing a queer little, copper two-cent piece. Because of this act of love, the world immediately took on a brighter appearance to the man. His despair was turned to hope. Ever after that he wore the coin as a charm for his watch-chain. "Not a great fortune," said he, in speaking of the loving deed of his child, "but whatever I've got since then came from it, for it gave me courage."

MR. BEECHER'S FAREWELL.

In Dr. C. H. Hall's eulogy of Henry Ward Beecher, in Plymouth Church, he said: "On his last Sunday evening in this place two weeks ago, after the congregation had retired from

it, the organist and one or two others were practicing. Mr. Beecher remained behind to listen. Two street boys wandered into the building, and one of them was standing in the position of the boy Raphael has immortalized, gazing up at the organ. The old man, laying his hand on the boy's head, turned his face upward and kissed him, and, with his arms about the two, left the scene of his triumphs, his trials and successes forever. It was a fitting close to a grand life, recognizing, as his Master did, that the humblest and the poorest were his brethren."—*Ella Brownson, in Sunday School Times.*

BOTH TOOK SECOND THOUGHT.

A duel growing out of a slight altercation, which had been arranged to be fought in the woods near Moscow, says the *Daily Citizen,* failed because both adversaries wished to spare the other. One was a young staff lieutenant and one a retired general of over sixty. When the signal to fire was given, neither of the men pulled his trigger. The general said he could not risk destroying a young life over a triviality, and the lieutenant said it was impossible for him to fire upon an opponent who had not raised his arm.

Many heartaches and sorrows of long standing could be avoided if every one would take a serious second thought before saying or doing anything toward the injury of another's person or character.

THE NEWSBOY'S SERMON.

On a suburban train was a bright-eyed, barefooted newsboy, working his way through the crowded car with his papers. A white-haired old gentleman, says *Forward,* seemed interested in the boy, and questioned him concerning his home and his earnings. There was a younger brother who was lame, to be supported, it appeared. "Ah, I see," said the man in a kindly tone; "that makes it hard; you could do better alone." The shabby little fellow was erect in a moment, and his reply prompt and

somewhat indignant: "No, I couldn't! Jim's somebody to go home to; he's lots of help. What would be the good of having luck if nobody was glad, or of gettin' things if there was nobody to divide with?"

"Fourteenth Street!" called the conductor, and as the newsboy plunged out into the gathering dusk, the old gentleman remarked to no one in particular: "I've heard many a poorer sermon than that!"

PARABLE OF LOVE.

"I'll master it," said the ax to a piece of iron, as his blows fell heavily upon it. But every blow made his edge more blunt, until he ceased to strike.

"Leave it to me," said the saw, but soon all his teeth were broken and he fell aside.

"Ha, ha!" said the hammer, "I knew you couldn't succeed. I'll show you the way." But at the first blow his head fell off.

"Shall I try?" asked the soft, small flame.

They all despised the flame, but he curled gently around the iron, embraced it, and never left it until it melted under his irresistible influence.

There are hearts so hard as to resist the force of wrath, the malice of persecution, and the fury of pride; but there is a power stronger than any of these, and hard is the heart that can resist love.

ROMANCE OF THE WORKSHOP.

George Westinghouse, Jr., whose father invented the air-brake, worked for him and became an expert in his shops at Pittsburgh. While laboring there in 1908, he one day escorted Miss Brocklebank, daughter of Sir Thomas Brocklebank, of Cumberland, through the plant and made himself so agreeable that she was favorably impressed. Believing him to be simply a workman, she hesitated as to whether or not to give him a tip. The next meeting between the lady and her guide in over-

alls, says *Tit-Bits,* was in London. The acquaintance ripened into love, and the wedding took place the following year. Later the young man inherited, at his father's death, a fortune of $50,000,000.

The man of honor is not afraid of work or workmen's attire. He knows he has the respect of all right-thinking men and women.

ONLY ONE CONDITION.

There was a ripple of excitement all through the orphanage, for a great lady had come to take little Jane home with her. The girl herself was bewildered with the thought. "Do you want to go with me and be my child?" the lady asked in gentle tones. "I don't know," said Jane, timidly. "But I'm going to give you beautiful clothes, and a lot of things—a room of your own, with a beautiful bed and table and chairs." After a moment's silence the little one said, anxiously: "But what am I to do for—for all this?" The lady burst into tears. "Only to love me and be my child," she said, as she folded the little girl in her arms.

God adopts us, protects us, and gives us an inheritance in glory. All he asks in return is that we should love him and be his children.—*Children's Record.*

THE CONFUSION OF TONGUES.

Among the sky-scrapers in New York City is the Woolworth Building of fifty-five stories, standing 750 feet high, with its "roof in the sky." Within sight of it are living representatives of all the great nations of earth, speaking many languages, with daily papers for the Chinese, Italians, Germans, Jews, Greeks, Hungarians, French, Bohemians, Spanish, Servians and others. Here is a marvelously varied moving picture of the peoples of earth, with such a Babel of voices that one is reminded of the descendants of Noah who stopped in the land of Shinar and said: "Come, let us build us a city, a tower, whose top may

reach unto heaven." Commencing the work, God confounded their language, and they were scattered abroad "upon the face of all the earth."

The confusion of tongues has remained, and many men in various ways have "had dominion" over the things of earth, air and sea, all working together under one great Builder, not for the erection of a "tower whose top may reach unto heaven," but for the elevation of the human family through Him who said: "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me."

Even though there are many races, and they can not "understand one another's speech," there is one language they all know —the language of the heart. A smile, a laugh, a cry, a handshake, a kindly act, are the same everywhere, understood by every human being. Make rich use of the universal language.

THE BOYS' LAST NIGHT.

Three young men, all musicians, who had been good friends during four years together in college, were in Guy's room the last evening before they were to separate for their homes. He wanted to serenade the lovely Miss Norton, while Ben wished to call on the pretty Miss Simpson. Harold, a tall, athletic young fellow whom everybody loved, said thoughtfully:

"You both know Mrs. Wright, who has done our washing. Well, she's old and poor, and crippled by rheumatism besides. It's our last chance to do anything more for her. Let's go there to-night, and take our violins. The girls will have forgotten our efforts in a week, but Mrs. Wright will remember them as long as she lives."

They went. Somehow, they played as never before. The little washerwoman sat in her old chair, her hands clasped in delight. She had forgotten all about her rheumatism and her poverty. Her boys—for she called them that—were playing her into an enchanted land where everything was beautiful. When they arose to go, each one took the small, knotted hand that for

four years had washed his clothes, and tenderly said good-by, with best wishes. As they walked away in the bright moonlight, Guy was the first to speak. "It paid, didn't it?" he said.

Ben looked up at the stars. Something new had crept into his soul that night—a desire to be a better fellow, and less selfish. "I should say it did," he answered soberly. Harold put an arm around each and gently said, "Thank you." And the humble washerwoman had been ushered into a new world. Some one cared—and for her.—*Onward.*

THE TIE THAT BINDS.

Rev. John Fawcett, author of the world-famed hymn, "Blest be the Tie that Binds Our Hearts in Christian Love," wrote it in 1772, as a memorial of the power of love. He had served as pastor of a little church at Yorkshire for seven years, when he received and accepted a call to a large church in London. He packed his goods in wagons and was ready, with his family, to start, when the members of his church gathered about him in great sorrow and distress of mind. The minister and his wife also wept bitterly. Finally she cried out: "Oh, John, John, I can not bear this! I know not how to go!" The good man replied: "Nor I either; nor will we go! Unload the wagons, and put everything back where it was before!"

The decision was received with tears of joy. He went on with his work in Yorkshire, and out of the experience wrote the hymn which has been sung over and over again in all lands and climes where the Christian religion is known.

MATRIMONY.

COMMENCED WITH PRAYER.

Preparatory to his marriage, Dr. Lyman Beecher called a few times on the woman of his choice, and then one morning, stepping inside, said: "I have come to ask if you will marry me." "Yes, sir," she replied. "Let us pray," said the extraordinary

suitor. They knelt, and Lyman Beecher prayed for God's blessing upon their union. Henry Ward Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe were children of this marriage.

THE REASON HE GAVE.

"I wonder why you married me," exclaimed a young wife, turning with tear-filled eyes to confront her husband, whose first wife was a belle and a beauty, adding: "I am so far from beautiful."

"Because I loved you," he replied promptly.

"But what first attracted you?"

"Your sweet repose of manner, your womanly dignity, your cultivated voice, your evident self-control under all circumstances. By all these things I judged you, dear, thinking of the old Spanish proverb, 'There can be no perfect manners without Christian souls.'"—*Selected.*

CHOOSING A HUSBAND.

"How may a girl know she is marrying the right man?" This question was answered in the *Ladies' Home Journal* as follows, by a woman who had been happily wedded:

"When nineteen I met a young doctor. We soon became good friends, and in about a year he asked me to marry him. While I admired him greatly, I felt I did not love him. He was much disappointed, but asked that we still remain friends. Some time afterward I was visiting in the country, and this young doctor was to call on Sunday and take me home. Hearing the 'honk-honk' of his automobile horn, I went down the road to meet him. On my way I saw him get out of his car and pick up a small squirrel that had been injured. The tender way he handled it soon convinced me that he was the man I should want my children to call 'Father.' That was twelve years ago, and I have been the happiest of wives and the most blessed of mothers ever since."

MEMORY.

A MATTER OF WILL-POWER.

An old lawyer placed an important document in the hands of a young man of eighteen, says the *Boys' World,* with certain instructions as to what to do with it.

"But suppose I should happen to lose it?" the other asked.

"You must not lose it," said the attorney, frowning. "I shall make no provision for such carelessness."

This put a new train of thought into the young man's mind, and he found that, if he was determined to do a thing, he could do it. He became a successful business man, and said:

"When a man tells me he forgot to do something, I tell him he might as well have said, 'I do not care enough about your business to take the trouble to think of it again.'"

MYSTERIES OF THE MIND.

An English writer avers that the Rev. Thomas Threkheld, a Presbyterian minister of Richdale, knew the entire Bible by heart, and could speak ten languages. The "Learned Blacksmith," Elihu Burritt, learned fifty languages—two of them (Latin and Greek) while still an apprentice at the forge. Antonio Magliabecchi, a poor Florentine, was made the librarian of Duke Cosmo III. because of his wonderful memory. It was said of him that he never forgot anything he read. Many persons never forget what they hear, but quickly lose what they read.—*Garrett P. Serviss.*

We should have the very best memory possible, but bear in mind that heart expansion is more important than mental expansion. Paul says that though we speak with the tongues of men and of angels, understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and yet have not love, we are nothing; that love will abide when everything else has failed.

MERIT.

SUPERS IN PLAYS.

In every large city are persons who are content to be "supers"—to act the small part in plays, where minor characters are to be represented. It requires but little talent or rehearsing, and much of the time is spent in waiting around in the wings or dressing-rooms.

In the real work of the world don't be content to be a "super." Be ambitious to become a "real actor"—to do something worth while. No one should be content to wait around for an occasional small job on the stage of life.

THE JEWELED CANINE.

A baroness from Austria who visited America brought along what was called a $10,000 dog. One of the papers put it thus: "Patsy, as he stands, gold nose-ring, ruby necktie and collar, is valued at $10,000." The value of the part that was "just plain dog" was not given—evidently only a small portion of the high-sounding figures.

It isn't strange that a brute should be valued by what he *wears* and not by what he *is*. The same absurd error is often made in estimating the worth of human beings.

VALUELESS MADE VALUABLE.

The abnormal growths known as burls, common to almost every species of tree, become very large on California redwoods. T. A. Church says they are produced as the result of some injury, such as forest fires, insect attacks, gnawing of animals, or excessive pruning. For many years they were looked upon as a waste product, until a man named Rodney Burns saw great possibilities in them. Now all sorts of novelties are made from them for curio dealers, and burl furniture is much prized.

As a general thing, people who are abnormal in character

were made so by some injury or neglect, either in their home or society. We may discover but little of merit in them, but God sees such great possibilities, even in the most wicked hearts, that he sent his Son to transform them into hearts worthy the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is not for us to say that any life is of no value.

THE HEIGHT OF THINGS.

The Matthews teleheight is a little instrument designed to get the exact height of a pole, tree or other tall object. The lineman measures with a tape a distance of seventy-five feet from the object as it stands in the ground, and from this point adjusts his thumb-screw, spirit-level and other parts preparatory to obtaining the desired result. In making off-hand guesses a number of persons would probably vary considerably in their estimates, but the man with the instrument is not guessing. He *knows.*

Every one in a community is "sized up" by those who know him, some holding him in too high esteem, and others not high enough. But the individual himself *knows* his real standing. The little instrument, *conscience,* gives him his exact measurement.

DROPPED FROM THE PAY-ROLL.

During investigation into the workings of an insurance corporation it was found that the president of a New York company, who was regarded as anything but a genius, had succeeded in boosting his salary to $150,000 a year, and that several members of his family were also drawing enormous pay. As a result of the investigation it was found that the value of their services had been vastly overestimated, and the whole family was taken from the pay-roll, much to the advantage of the company.

Every young person starting out in life should resolve not to overestimate his or her ability or worth. On the other hand,

do not underestimate yourself. "Know thyself," and be true to thyself, hence "it must follow as the day the night that thou canst not then be false to any man."

MISSIONS.

THE GREATEST GIFT.

When a collection was being counted after an enthusiastic missionary meeting, a small piece of paper was found on the plate on which was the one word "Myself." It was put in by a young man who had given himself that night to the service of Christ in the foreign field.—*By Way of Illustration.*

DID WHAT SHE COULD.

Sherwood Eddy, in "India's Awakening," tells of a poor girl who had worked for years as a stenographer: "She offered to go to the foreign field, but was rejected on account of her health. Since then she has been saving her money, supporting native workers at thirty dollars a year. There is a community in native India where more than a thousand souls have been brought to Christ by this one frail girl. A thousand who have passed from darkness into his marvelous light because one girl cared! How many are in the light because of what you have done?"—*Forward.*

A STREET BLACKSMITH.

Instead of waiting for customers in his shop, a Paris blacksmith did a profitable business during the winter months by going out on the streets with a portable equipment, finding many horses needing new shoes or sharpened calks in order that they might get along on the slippery streets. The owners would give the smithy their patronage there who would not take the time to go to his shop.

It is often the case that mission workers find eager listeners among the men on the streets, who realize they are standing on

slippery ground, but who would not take the time to go to a hall or church. "Billy" Sunday's conversion was due to a talk he heard at an open-air street-meeting in Chicago.

BIG USE OF SMALL ISLAND.

The lonely island of Norfolk, once a penal colony, midway between New Caledonia and New Zealand, has an area of but little over thirteen square miles, and yet is the home of one of the most remarkable printing-offices in the world. Here is published a semi-annual mission paper, the *Melanesian Mission Press,* and other works in twenty-one languages. The editor is a German-American, formerly of New York, who has lived on the island thirty-two years, denying himself the pleasure of modern conveniences that he might publish and send forth the light of the gospel of Christ to the dark races of the southern seas. The island itself is but a speck in the great ocean, and yet what a "base of supplies" it has proven for giving neglected men "the one thing needful" in making their lives worth living. Small opportunities may be made the means of great blessings to many people speaking many languages.

SHIPS SOW SEEDS.

Botanists have made the interesting discovery that the vegetation of two islands in the Pacific Ocean, nearly one thousand miles apart, is now almost identical, while formerly there was a marked difference. The explanation is that at each port the wind carries a fine powder of almost invisible seeds on to each of the many ships that stop, and blows ashore some of those she has received at previous ports of call.

As the difference in the vegetation of islands is disappearing, so is the difference in the habits and customs of the many races of people upon the earth. The doctrine of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, as taught and lived by Christ, is making the whole world akin. When Jesus was asked to

explain the parable of the tares, he said: "He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world."

This good seed, like that of plant life, is also being carried to the uttermost parts of the world. Scarcely a ship that does not bear away Christian workers or religious literature, so that now as never before is being obeyed the command of the Saviour when he said to his disciples: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

MONEY.

THE TOUCH OF GOLD.

Offering a prize for the best definition of money, a London paper awarded it to a young man who sent in the following: "An article which may be used as a universal passport to everywhere except heaven, and as a universal provider of everything except happiness."

At one of the great Portola celebrations in San Francisco a young woman was coated with gold to represent the Golden State of California in a beautiful float. She died in a short time as a result. The pores of the skin were so filled that there was no giving out from the body.

The *Classmate* tells of the death of a child, due to being covered with gold to personate a cherub at an entertainment, and adds: "The gold coating which covers the avaricious souls, and shuts off the outgoing of love, sympathy and service, means spiritual death."

THE GIVING THAT COUNTS.

When Helen Gould was married to Finley J. Shepherd, one of the New York papers, in its report, said: "The wedding was simple, in strict keeping with the life and habits of the woman whose goodness and unostentatious benefactions have won high esteem. . . . But, more than all this, the bride herself added a

touch suggestive of true Americanism. Shortly after breakfast, when the millionaire guests were preparing for the ceremony, she summoned her servants. As they entered her study, she shook each warmly by the hand, and bade them be present at the wedding. And she later saw to it that the ceremony did not begin until every person in her employ was placed at a point of vantage."

A California paper, commenting upon her thoughtfulness in this regard, and her great liberality, said: "Helen Gould gives more than money. She gives herself. There is no other way to win the love of a people."

WHEN GOLD WAS CHEAP.

On the steamer "Valencia," which went down off the Northwest coast, was a man named Graham, on his way home from Alaska, bringing with him a bag of gold. He was rich, but when he, as all others on board, saw that the ship must sink, he frantically offered his gold to any one who would take him safe to land. His pleadings were not heeded, and his bag of gold was kicked underfoot, no one bothering to even pick it up. He had risked his life for the gold, and then offered the gold for his life.

It is when confronting or contemplating such a crisis that the words of Jesus come to mind with great force: "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it; for what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

ON THE FATED "TITANIC."

Eleven millionaires lost their lives, with the hundreds of others who went down with the "Titanic," in April, 1912. Their combined wealth totaled nearly $200,000,000. No doubt, could they have sent a message to the living as to their estimate of

the things of most importance in life, not one would have mentioned money. The papers reported that Maj. A. H. Peuchen, of Toronto, who was saved from the wreck, left more than $300,000 in money, jewelry and securities in a box in his cabin. He started back for the box, thought an instant, then turned away without it. In telling of the incident after reaching New York, he said: "The money seemed a mockery at that time. I picked up three oranges instead."

Major Peuchen evidently realized, as have millions of others facing death, that Paul's words to Timothy are true: "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

PENALTY FOR COUNTERFEITING.

In Dalton, Massachusetts, is located the only mill in the world for the manufacture of the paper from which the United States Government makes paper money. Only pure white linen rags are used. The process is secret. In each sheet, which is the size of four bills, are blue and red silk fibers, so arranged that approximately an equal number must be in every bill. The possession of even one sheet of this paper, without a single mark upon it, makes a person liable to a fine of $5,000, or five years' imprisonment, or both.

The laws against counterfeiting have always been severe. There was a time—in the 1770's—when the penalty for counterfeiting New York State currency was death. On each bill were the words, "'Tis Death to Counterfeit."

All who made counterfeits of those bills must themselves have placed on the face of each the severe penalty for their act. In the affairs of life many attempt to deceive, to imitate, to pose as real men, but on the face of each false pretender his own condemnation is written, by his own conduct, through the unyielding law of cause and effect: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

MOTHER.

HIS OPPORTUNITY.

She is my mother, and eighty years old. I have an idea life evens things up. When I was young and helpless, mother took care of me; now I take care of her. She was patient with me then; now I am patient with her. She fed me; now I feed, clothe and keep her. She loved me when I was ignorant, awkward, needing constant care, and all because I was born of her body and part of her soul. Now every feebleness and trait of childishness in her endears her to me. So much as she is tax on my time, attention and money, I love her. She watched with me until I grew up; I shall watch with her until she steps into heaven.—*Dr. Frank Crane.*

LOVE AND PET ME NOW.

Take my withered hands in yours,
Children of my soul;
Mother's heart is craving love;
Mother's growing old.
See, the snows of many years
Crown my furrowed brow;
As I've loved and petted you,
Love and pet me now.

Take my withered hands in yours,
Hold them close and strong;
Cheer me with a fond caress,
'Twill not be for long;
Youth immortal soon will crown
With its wreath my brow.
As I loved and petted you,
Love and pet me now.

—*T. B. Larimore.*

SERVICE MEANS BEAUTY.

"Mother does not look as she used to," said a young man to a friend as they were going away together, after a call on her. "When I was a boy they called her the handsomest woman in the community. But father was sick a long time, and my brother and I were both ill, and father and brother died. Mother had

to manage things and work very hard, and carry a heavy load to get me through college. It has stooped her shoulders, and left wrinkles on her cheeks and forehead, as well as whitened her hair. But," and here his eyes filled with tears and his voice broke with emotion as he continued, "to me she is the most beautiful woman in the whole world, for every wrinkle reminds me of the load she carried all for me."—*Christian Advocate.*

WORKING-HOURS OF BIRDS.

Green's *Fruit Grower* says the thrush gets up at half-past two every morning during the summer-time and works until half-past nine at night—a straight nineteen hours—during which it feeds its young over two hundred times. The blackbird works seventeen hours, and feeds its young a hundred times a day. Other birds work nearly as long.

Men who complain at more than eight hours' labor out of the twenty-four may here find food for reflection. Then, in many a home the wife and mother is up early and retires late, her hours often being nearer eighteen than eight. Like the hard-working bird, she does it for those near and dear to her.

PATIENT AND SMILING.

I have known many women who have brought the picture of Christ into my thoughts as I noted their daily walk. Smiling over the humblest service. That's mother. Sinking into a chair, weary and faint, only to rise with the unfailing smile on her dear, tired face, to wait on some man who has worked eight hours that day; or to mend a jacket or catcher's mit for a boy who has played all day; or to sew on a bit of lace or adjust a ribbon or change something about a gown for a girl who has had such a good time all day that she can't stop. That's mother. Staying at home that others may go out and enjoy themselves; sacrificing this hope, that comfort, and that rest, for people who forget to say, "Thank you." That's mother.—*Robert J. Burdette.*

"SUCH A MOTHER."

After one of the hard-fought battles of the Civil War, the chaplain was hastily called to see a dying soldier. Taking his hand, he said gently: "Well, my brother, is there anything I can do for you?"

He supposed, of course, the young man would want to cry to God for help, but not so. Instead, he requested:

"I want you to cut a lock of my hair for mother and then kneel down and return thanks to God for me."

"For what?" the chaplain inquired.

"For giving me such a mother. Oh, she is such a good mother! Her teachings are my comfort now. And then, chaplain, thank God that by his grace I am a Christian, and for the promised home in glory—I'll soon be there."

"And so," said the chaplain, "I knelt by his bed with not a petition to utter, only praises and thanksgiving for a good mother, a Christian hope and an eternal home in heaven."

FREEDOM THROUGH A SONG.

A Scottish young man wandered away from his native country, was taken captive by the Turks and made a slave in one of the Barbary States. Years passed, and one evening, when solacing himself by singing songs he had learned at his mother's knee, the familiar tune of "Old Hundred" floated from his lips out on the moonlit waves to the ears of sailors on an English man-of-war lying at anchor in the near-by harbor. Surmising that one of their countrymen was a captive there, they quickly armed themselves, manned a boat and effected his release. Thus, after eighteen long years in slavery, he found his freedom through a song his mother taught him.

Freedom from a far worse slavery—that of surrender to evil habits—may be obtained by many thousands of men by recalling and resolving to be true to the Christian teachings of a sainted mother.

GOOD-BY IN A CAR.

Representative Norris, of Nebraska, was on a street-car one Sunday morning when there entered a white-haired woman, a man of about thirty and a well-dressed young woman. The conversation soon made it apparent that the young man and his mother were from a farm, and that they were visiting Washington for the first time. He was starting home, leaving her to visit longer with the younger woman, who was her daughter. When the brother arose a little later to say good-by at the point where he was to leave the car, his mother threw her arms around his neck, and stood for some moments delivering a motherly message, while the conductor waited patiently with his hand on the bell-cord. Embarrassed, the son still held his arm about his mother's waist.

"Start the car!" called out a man in a silk hat. "It's church-time now. Why can't people do this sort of thing before they start for church?" he grumbled.

It had gone far enough for Mr. Norris. "Young man," he said to the one who was now the center of all eyes, "you just take all the time you want to say good-by to your mother. You don't know when you will say it to her for the last time. And if any of these people are so worried over their sins that they must hurry to church, why, they might get down on their knees right here, and pray."—*Cleveland Leader.*

ALEXANDER'S MOTHER.

"History does not furnish a more perfect human correspondence than that which is seen to have existed between Alexander the Great and his mother, Olympias," writes Rev. Thomas B. Gregory. "She was born of royal stock, about 384 B. C. A human volcano she was, seething and boiling with the hottest and most terrible passions known to humanity. She was fond of playing with serpents, finding a delight in their hisses, and in folding them about her neck and arms."

She was the wife of Philip, king of Macedon, and for more than twenty years shared the throne with him. Then he decided to put her away, and marry a young princess, which he did. In the midst of the marriage banquet Altalus proposed a toast, in which was an insult to Olympias. Alexander immediately arose and hurled his goblet at the head of Altalus, then, putting his arm about his mother, led her away to her old home in Epirus, and to his dying-day remained true to her. Although she was known as the Hyrcanian tigress, yet she was his mother, and that was enough for him.

NATURE.

VIEW OF AN ATTORNEY.

After many years' investigation of the philosophy of evolution I have yet to see proof of *a single fact* showing, or tending to show, the operation of the so-called "law" or "principle" of evolution in the world of nature. No instance has ever been found of a living thing of one species coming from the ancestors of another species; and there is not the slightest ground for the belief that such a thing ever happened. On the other hand, every one of the countless billions of reproductions of living creatures—the grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit—which occur every year, are in accordance with the divine command in the first chapter of Genesis.—*Philip Mauro, Attorney, New York City.*

GOD IN HIS WORKS.

"It is not possible," says Ruskin, "for a Christian to walk across so much as a rod of the natural earth without receiving strength and hope from some stone, flower, leaf or sound, nor without a sense of a dew falling upon him out of the sky." God has crowded this world full of beauty; it is only our eyes at fault when we find the common and mean. Consider the French

painter, Millet, and his work. The peasant or the laboring man, by himself, had never been regarded as a proper subject for art until this "peasant painter of peasants" looked upon him with the eyes of understanding and sympathy. All the world knows and loves his pictures—"The Gleaners," "The Sowers," "The Angelus," and many more.—*Mary B. Anderson, in Christian Standard.*

MOUNTAIN PEAK DEMOLISHED.

Twenty million tons of rock suddenly started from its age-long resting-place at the top of Mount Lombard, Colorado, at an elevation of 12,405 feet above sea-level, in the winter of 1913-14, and in a few seconds it had dashed down five thousand feet, with a terrific roar, before striking obstacles sufficiently to stop it. In this brief time three hundred feet of the topmost peak was demolished, and a great stretch of the hillside changed in form and appearance. New routes for its ascension at that point were made necessary.

We think of mountain peaks as things that endure, yet in a moment they may slip away. This is typical of man's earthly possessions, in which he feels secure, and on which he has set his heart. From some unexpected source the crash may come and fortunes be swept away, as is often the case. From this time forth the loser must change his attitude toward all around him, and scale the mountains of life along new lines.

"THE CENTER OF THE SKY."

Under this caption Prof. Frederick Campbell, second vice-president of the department of astronomy in Brooklyn Institute, gives comparisons which show the wonderful distances from the earth of some known stars. Polaris, the familiar "north star," is one of the nearest, and yet the light from it is seventy years reaching the earth, while the sun, at a distance of ninety-three million miles, sends its light to us in eight and one-half minutes! If the north star were the same distance, its light would

appear one hundred times as bright as that of the sun. Marvelous as is this, Professor Campbell says the light of Deneb is eighteen times brighter than that of Polaris; Antares, twenty times; Rigel, forty, and Canopus, one hundred!

Halley's comet, which was visible the last time in 1910, makes a circuit of ten billion miles once every seventy-five years, approximately, going at an average speed a trifle less than four and a half miles a second.

The mind is simply dazed when contemplating such wonders of the universe. And yet there is something more wonderful than any or all of these combined. Reflect upon these words in the eighth Psalm: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor."

NEGLIGENCE.

AT THE DEAD-LETTER OFFICE.

Study concentration of the mind upon every duty, no matter how small. The habitual carelessness of thousands of people is nowhere better demonstrated than in the fact that twelve million letters and parcels go to the dead-letter office at Washington every year, and also eight million post-cards. In most cases the fault is either due to incorrect addresses or failure to put name and address of senders upon the things mailed.

FOOLISH BUILDERS.

The North Pacific coast was swept by a severe storm on October 6, 1913, laying in ruins the city of Nome, the once famous mining-camp of Alaska, because its buildings rested upon the sands of the beach. One magazine, in its report of the disaster, contained the significant heading, "City Built upon the

Sand Wrecked by Storm," and said: "When the storm drove the sea over the long, sloping beach, the waves beat down the flimsy shacks, destroyed the frame stores, and left a straggling line of wreckage along the coast."

Jesus closed his Sermon on the Mount with these words: "Every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it."

THE LIGHT WAS DIM.

Many years ago a steamer coming up the Firth of Clyde on a stormy night crashed into a ship lying at anchor. Several lives were lost and much damage done. The disaster was due to the fact that the anchored ship had allowed her light to grow dim for want of oil.

Neglect of duty is a serious thing. We must remember there is the sin of omission as well as commission. "He that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

AS EXPLAINED BY TOMMY.

The boy came home from school, with eyes red, and hung his head shamefacedly. In answer to questions from his fond parents as to what was the trouble, he meekly replied:

"I've been thrashed for something I didn't do."

"What a shame!" exclaimed the father and mother in chorus. "And how unfair! What was it, Tommy?"

"A sum in arithmetic," came the brief reply.

This puts the "sin of omission" in a new light.

"NOBODY EVER TOLD ME."

A home missionary visited a dying boy in a gypsy tent. Bending over him, he said: "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not

perish, but have everlasting life." The boy heard and whispered: "Nobody ever told me."

From this incident Mrs. Slade put into words the well-known song, "Tell It Again," the first verse of which introduces the theme as follows:

"Into the tent where a gypsy boy lay,
Dying alone at the close of the day,
News of salvation we carried; said he,
'Nobody ever has told it to me.'"

OBSTACLES.

ORCHESTRA OF CRIPPLES.

Portland, Oregon, has an orchestra of men with only one arm each, says *Popular Mechanics*. The instruments played are piano, violin, cello, cornet, trombone, mandolin and drums. This unique orchestra is in great demand.

And yet many persons with no *apparent* physical handicap fail to equip themselves for service in any capacity.

"HAYSTACKS ON STILTS."

In some portions of China large areas of hayfields are flooded by the heavy rains following harvest-time, consequently the hay is stacked on living trees, growing tall and straight, thatched at the top. Cared for in this way, there is no injury or loss to the crop, notwithstanding the grounds beneath are covered with water for some time.

If you discover a tendency in your thoughts to dwell on low things, "stack them higher up," above all that would corrode or tarnish.

THE THING THAT COUNTS.

Perhaps you have stood on the shore of some lake, watching sailboats moving in different directions, regardless of the course of the wind. The same breeze carries one this way and another that. Two young men of equal opportunities start out in life,

one succeeding and the other failing. One "tacks his sails" in such a manner as to make a contrary wind his helper, while the other permits it to drive him to despair and defeat.

"One ship goes east, another west,
By the selfsame winds that blow.
'Tis the set of the sail and *not* the gale
That determines the way they go.
Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate
As we voyage along through life.
'Tis the set of the *soul* that determines the goal,
And not the calm or the strife."

MILLIONS FOR BRIDGES.

New York had spent, up to 1914, the sum of $100,000,000 for bridges over the East River, to say nothing of railroad tunnels. Owing to the restricted land area of the original site, the expenditure was necessary to the city's growth.

If you feel handicapped and restricted because of certain circumstances in your life, don't be content to "stand still," and say there's no more chance for you. Bridge the obstacles that surround you, and thus make room for constant growth and development. It may require the expenditure of great effort, but the joy of doing, of conquering, will more than repay.

AIR PRESSURE IN TUNNELS.

Experiments have demonstrated that a train in the Simplon tunnel, going at a rate of thirty-seven miles an hour, meets a resistance of air pressure measuring 13.86 pounds a ton of train weight, when running in the direction of the ventilating current, and 20.46 when going in the opposite direction, as against only 8.8 pounds in the open air. To reduce the resistance, a new $9,000,000 tunnel was decided upon, paralleling the other, with numerous cross-tunnels connecting them, thus promoting an equilibrium between the air masses in the tunnels.—*Adapted from Popular Mechanics.*

Bad habits are to the individual what tunnel walls are to the train—they persistently resist all his efforts to succeed, pressing

in upon him with multiplying power in proportion to his efforts to advance. The man in the "open air" of freedom from such hindrances makes better headway, and does it much more easily.

LIFTING BOULDERS.

The remarkable force exerted by growing plants has often been illustrated by the ease with which roots of trees disrupt sidewalks and curbs. *Popular Mechanics* says they have been known to raise boulders weighing eighteen tons, and that there is a case on record where a sapling grew through a hole in a millstone, carrying it into the air. In one experiment a squash, harnessed to a lever, succeeded in raising a 5,000-pound weight. The squash itself grew to a weight of forty-seven and one-half pounds, and developed about eighty thousand feet of roots in the eighty days of the test. It is partially explained as follows: "In addition to the natural cell-pressure of several atmospheres, mechanical hindrances seem to act as a *stimulus,* resulting in incredible strength."

Here we see that even in nature obstacles act as a *stimulus,* and serve to add strength to growing vegetation. In character-building we might say that opposition, or hindrance, is almost indispensable if unusual strength of character is to be developed. Instead of giving way to obstructions, let them act as a stimulus for far greater effort. Victory comes with the effort.

OLD AGE.

A LONG PASTORATE.

The Rev. Edward Robie, of Greenland, New Hampshire, preached for the same church more than half a century, and even when eighty-three years of age took a special course of study at the Harvard Summer School, that he might have the benefit of the newest facts and latest methods in his preaching. When interviewed in regard to his work, he said: "There has

not been a day that I have not gained a new thought or inspiration; and when I return to my parish I shall be better able to do justice to the sermons I preach."

IMMENSE OAK-TREE.

Near Chico, California, is a great oak, said to be the largest of the kind in the world. Its trunk is twenty-five feet in circumference, and, while it is only 105 feet in height, the circumference of its branches is 446 feet. Over seven thousand persons could stand beneath them, allowing two feet to each. The secret of its beauty and attractiveness lies largely in the fact that it is *alive*; that it keeps on *growing*.

We all admire old men and women who keep young in heart because they will not think they have outlived their usefulness. From such the young may well learn the importance of maintaining a *living interest* in things about them as long as God permits them to remain alive in the body.

THE APPLE BLOSSOMS.

"When Longfellow was well along in years," writes the Rev. T. B. Gregory, "his head as white as snow, but his cheeks as red as a rose, an ardent admirer asked him how it was that he was able to keep so vigorous and to write so beautifully. Pointing to a blossoming apple-tree near by, the poet replied: 'That is very old, but I never saw prettier blossoms upon it than those it now bears. The tree grows a little new wood each year, and I suppose it is out of that new wood that these blossoms come. Like the apple-tree, I try to grow a little new wood each year.'"

WONDERS OF THE BRAIN.

Dr. William Prescott Appleton says: "All the cells of the body, except those of the brain, are different in the old person from the corresponding cells of the same person in youth. The only connecting link between the child organism and the senile

organism is the brain, as it is believed that brain cells do not regenerate themselves."

Dr. I. L. Nascher says mental stimulation is the most important measure in the hygiene of the aged; that anything which will cause them to take an interest in life outside of their own circle will benefit them.

The connecting link between youth and age, in a spiritual sense, is wonderfully set forth in the command: "Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

One of the most beautiful things in the world is a dear old Christian. "The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness."

OPPORTUNITY.

THE REBUKE OF A BOY.

When Spurgeon, the great preacher, was being conducted to a strange church, he asked the lad with him if he loved Christ. "For years," replied the youth, "I have shown ministers the way to the chapel, but you are the first to ask me that." As a result of the question, a soul was won to the Saviour.

SNOW HINDERS AND HELPS.

In every large city a heavy snowstorm means, in one way, discomfort and suffering for the many poor, while in another it is a help. Meaning more fuel for many, it also makes more labor for many. Every big snowstorm in New York City provides several days' work for twenty thousand men, who haul the snow from the business streets and dump it into the bay, their combined wages amounting to $250,000, and sometimes much more.

There are but few unfortunate experiences in each life which may not be turned to some good account.

TO PRESERVE EYESIGHT.

Passing by some mines in Pennsylvania, a gentleman asked a boy why there were so many mules in the fields. "They are worked in the mines through the week," said the lad, "and are brought up into the light on Sunday to keep them from going blind."—*Sunday School Chronicle.*

Men and women whose time is taken up with a variety of things through the week should take advantage of every opportunity to bask in the light and warmth of Christ's church on Sunday, to keep from going spiritually blind.

ADVERTISED WITH A SONG.

The man who persistently pushes himself and his business to the front may sometimes lack in judgment, but we all admire his spirit of alertness to opportunities. The story is told of a real-estate agent who was also a singer. At a social gathering one evening he rendered "Home, Sweet Home," and was heartily applauded. Before taking his seat he said: "I am glad you like the song. There is nothing like 'Home, Sweet Home,' and let me say that the company I represent is selling homes on terms to suit everybody. If you don't want to live in one of these homes yourself, it's the chance of your life for an investment."

KEPT HIS EYES OPEN.

Many men have failed in life because they did not keep their eyes open in the days of youth. *Grit* tells of a boys' club organized by students at school, one of whom was chosen as steward. At the close of each noonday meal he asked for suggestions regarding the meals for the next day. If none were forthcoming, he suggested. After a time he prepared bills of fare, merely submitting them, so satisfactory were all his arrangements. In finding that he could successfully cater for his associates, he discovered his opportunity. He had his eyes open. If he could cater for his schoolmates, he could cater for the public. To-day

he has nearly a hundred restaurants, with his name on sign-boards in nearly every large Eastern city.

PRESS THE BUTTON.

A jeweler, wishing to secure effective illumination for his window display, at a minimum cost, placed a button outside the entrance, with a notice stating that the goods could be inspected at will by pressing it. Many passed by without seeing the glittering valuables. It was for those who would stop and press the button—a very little thing, but necessary if they would behold the beautiful exhibit.

By the simple process of stopping to say a kind word, or do some little helpful deed, you may behold something far more beautiful than sparkling jewels. The brightness of the tear-smile of one you have helped or cheered will outshine diamonds. It may be a jewel in your soul for all eternity. "Press the button." It works wonders.

FRIENDSHIP OF SHIPMATES.

On January 25, 1904, eight shipmates of the U. S. S. "Albatross" gave up sea-life, and stood together in front of the big ferry building in San Francisco. Here they quartered two pennies, each taking a piece of the coins, as a seal of his word of honor, and pledged themselves to meet at the same spot ten years later. Four kept the pact, and were there at seven o'clock on the evening of January 25, 1914.

One of the number, Murray S. Johnson, of San Diego, had become a millionaire. He had engaged in the general merchandise business, establishing stores in different places. The others were cement and bridge workers, living in San Francisco, in moderate circumstances. The millionaire was the only one who had kept his broken bit of coin.

Observe that the one who had met with the greatest success did not wait for opportunity to knock at his door, but went into

business for himself; also that he was the only one who had kept the souvenir of their friendship when they were shipmates together on the old "Albatross" so long before

PATIENCE.

THEIR REASON.

Persons who have been punished by being compelled to listen to music they didn't like, in order to please the performer or the relatives, will appreciate this from the Boston *Transcript*:

"Doesn't your choir sing at the prison any more?"

"No; several of the prisoners objected on the ground that it was not included in their sentence."

COST OF BAD TEMPER.

There are physical as well as mental and moral reasons for controlling the temper. J. S. Goodall, in one of his lectures, said: "By getting into a rage the work of the heart may be increased from 152 to 224 foot-pounds a minute." He further says that if one retires at ten o'clock instead of twelve each night, he saves the heart 876,000 foot-pounds of work in the course of a year.

HOT SPRINGS OF ICELAND.

The stranger in Iceland may be walking over frozen ground, meditating upon the absence of heat in that far-north country, and suddenly come upon hot springs, with the water boiling up out of the earth—in some places utilized by women for washing clothes. The hot springs in Iceland, where earthquakes are not infrequent, are constant reminders of the thinness of the earth's crust separating the frozen region from the internal fires.

We are surprised when a person whom we have been led to believe is always "cool" suddenly "boils over" with rage. Let this remind us of the frailty of human nature and make us all the more determined not to lose our temper.

THE STRANDED SHIP.

A great ship was stranded on a sunken rock. When the suggestion was made to the captain that other ships be signaled and that she be dragged from the rock, he promptly protested: "That would be certain ruin. Let us wait till the tide comes in, and it will lift her up, and by its help we can reach the harbor." —*Christian Standard.*

The tide of love will lift up those who have been stranded on some hidden rock of temptation, while tugging at them with words of harsh criticism might mean their ruin.

QUESTIONS OF A LOVER.

"Pay as you go," said a father to his son. "But suppose I have no money to pay with?" "Then, don't go."

The same principle might be applied to persons who have difficulty in thinking of something to say—if you have nothing to say, just be patient, and say nothing. A very bashful lover, in order to get the conversation started, twisted uneasily in his seat while alone with Harriet in the parlor, and inquired:

"How is your father?"

"Quite well, thank you," was the simple response.

After an awkward pause he made another effort. "How's your ma?" he asked, his face reddening.

"She's very well, also, thank you."

The silence was proving very embarrassing to him, and finally he blurted out:

"How—how's your *parents?*"

NOT WORTH WHILE.

"Why didn't you tell her she was taking more than her share of room and was encroaching upon your rights?" asked a friend of a young woman who was merrily telling of an old woman who had taken a seat beside her in a crowded railway car, and who crammed numerous bundles into the small space. "It

wasn't worth while," replied the girl; "we had such a little way to go together." What a motto that would be for the journey of life! Unkindnesses and offenses against us may be passed over silently because we have "such a little way to go together." —*Dr. J. R. Miller.*

PATRIOTISM.

OUR BANNER.

Your flag and my flag! And, oh, how much it holds!
Your land and my land, secure within its folds.
Rose-red and blood-red the stripes forever gleam;
Snow-white and soul-white—the good forefathers' dream.
Sky-blue and true-blue, with stars to gleam aright—
The gloried guidon of the day, a shelter through the night.

—*W. D. Nesbit.*

THE UNFINISHED SONG.

Edward Marshall relates in *Scribner's* a touching incident of the war of 1898 with Spain: "About a dozen of us were lying in a field hospital. A chorus of moans arose through the treetops. Amputation and death stared a number of the boys in the face. Suddenly a voice started softly:

"'My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty.'

"Others took it up, and the singing, made spasmodic by pain, trembled from the lips of that little group of wounded Americans in the midst of Cuban solitude. One voice did not quite keep along. After the rest had finished, came the words from a fellow whose life was almost gone:

"'Land of—the pilgrims' pride—
Let freedom—'

"Then it was silent. One more son had died as did the fathers."

How like us all! In the midst of our activities we are called away. Perhaps the unfinished songs of earth may all be taken up and sung in one mighty chorus in the better world, in praise

of our Saviour, who made songs of joy and uplift possible here below.

"I AM AN AMERICAN."

One of the most novel and interesting institutions on American soil is thus described in a New York paper, in telling of what is being done for the children of foreigners in that city: "No whistle at seven o'clock in the morning, no tall chimneys, no smoke, yet the large brick structure at Mulberry and Bayard Streets is a factory. If you open the door and ask to see the plant in operation, you will be told that it is not a manufacturing establishment, but a school—Public School No. 23. But do not be disconcerted. It is a factory, all the same, for there are twenty-nine different nationalities of children in that school in the beginning, and in the end there comes out *only one,* speaking one language—English; saluting one flag, the Stars and Stripes. If you ask them, they will say: "Yes, my parents did come from Austria, or Russia, or—but I am an American."

This is good, but there is one thing of even far greater importance, applicable to every nationality upon the face of the earth —Rom. 15:5, 6: "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one toward another, according to Christ Jesus; that ye may with *one mind* and *one mouth* glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

PERSEVERANCE.

VALUE OF TRYING.

Edison's storage-battery invention was the result of nine thousand experiments, covering a period of three years. A visitor, on hearing this, exclaimed: "Then, all those experiments were practically wasted!" "Not at all," answered the great inventor; "I now know nine thousand things not to do." That saying shows the man; a marvel of patience and tenacity.—*Amos R. Wells.*

NAPOLEON'S PLUCK.

After one of his defeats Napoleon took out his watch and said, "We have lost the battle, but it's only two o'clock, and we have time to fight and win another," and the sun went down on a victorious army.—*J. R. Miller.*

THE GENIUS OF WORK.

Gibbon worked twenty years upon "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." Plato wrote the first sentence in his "Republic" nine different ways before he was satisfied with it. Burke wrote the conclusion of his speech at the trial of Hastings sixteen times, and Butler his famous "Analogy" twenty times. Virgil spent seven years on his "Georgics" and twelve on the "Æneid." He was so displeased with the latter that he attempted to rise from his death-bed to commit it to the flames.—*"Rising in the World."*

THE AMERICAN WAY.

Edison had only three months in school, yet Harvard would be indeed proud to count him among her alumni. It is more the boy than the book. His mother taught him. She had been a schoolteacher up in Canada. When young Edison decided to go to work he sought a job, but while waiting to hear from his application he sold newspapers on the streets. He is in the habit of quoting a well-known proverb thus: "Everything comes to him who hustles while he waits." That is the American version.—*Amos R. Wells, in Christian Endeavor World.*

HE NEEDED COURAGE.

Many men with original ideas have been compelled to face ridicule while endeavoring to put their ideas into effect. When George Westinghouse, inventor of the wonderful air-brake, first mentioned it to friends, he was called "Crazy George." Then he went to Commodore Vanderbilt, the greatest railway magnate of his day, and explained his invention to him. "What!"

said Vanderbilt, "do you mean to tell me that you can stop a train by *wind?* Go away! I have no time to waste on fools!"

Self-confidence, courage and perseverance are needed by all who would make a success in life. "Be sure you are right, *then go ahead.*"

ROOM AT THE FRONT.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox describes a familiar street-car scene, where, from the rear end to the center, the people are crowded in as thick as they can stand, while room and a strap, if not a seat, await at the upper end for those who will force their way through the crowd.

"Life is just such a car," she writes. "There is always a crowd at the rear end. Scores, hundreds and thousands of people are hanging off the platform and jamming the center aisles, but at the upper end there is room. No obstacle, human or inanimate, has a right to keep you from *moving on* to where there is room, if you desire to go."

THE INSIDE OF A BIG TREE.

Lumbermen and scientists who examined a big California tree after it had been cut down, found that it began growing 271 years before the birth of Christ. When it was 516 years old it was partly burned, the charred portions of the bark and trunk being visible far inside the monster. Other fires left their marks upon it in 1441, 1580 and 1797. The latter made an enormous scar, eighteen feet wide.

What a lesson in patient perseverance in overcoming obstacles this tree teaches! Burned, disfigured and partly destroyed as the flames roared around its mighty trunk, each time it covered up the wounds and went on with its work.

Everybody admires the brave man or woman who, though often opposed and persecuted, goes on patiently, determined to succeed, hiding the wounds of the past, looking cheerfully, hopefully, to the future.

A FORTUNE IN A KICK.

The discovery of the Bunker Hill and Sullivan mine, which had paid $14,000,000 in dividends prior to 1914, was the result of the kick of a mule. The men who had been prospecting there became discouraged and made ready to move. One of their mules rebelled, and, when whipped, began beating its hoofs against the hill, knocking out a nugget. Investigating, the men found a rich deposit, developing the famous mine mentioned. Apparent failure was accidentally turned to success.

When you are ready to give up some project, or worthy undertaking, hold on a little longer. Look the ground over carefully once more. Victory may be near.

SURPRISING THE ENEMY.

At the close of the first day of the battle of Shiloh, with serious Union reverses, General Grant was met by his much-discouraged chief of staff, McPherson, who said: "Things look bad, General. We've lost half our artillery and a third of the infantry. Our line is broken and we are pushed back nearly to the river."

Grant made no reply, and McPherson impatiently asked what he intended to do.

"Do? Why re-form the lines and attack at daybreak. Won't they be surprised?"

Surprised they were—and routed before nine o'clock.

"No man is defeated until he gives up."

THE UNDAUNTED LINCOLN.

Early in life Abraham Lincoln decided to devote his energy to his country's welfare, but for a long time it did not seem as if his country wanted his services. He ran for the Legislature and was defeated; tried to get the nomination for Congress and failed; sought an appointment in the General Land Office and was refused; twice in four years was defeated for the United

States Senate; and he lost the nomination for the Vice-Presidency. Yet, despite all this, Lincoln pressed on his determined way toward public service, at last gaining the greatest gift in the hands of the people of the United States, and their appreciation of his character and ability has but grown with each succeeding year since his death.—*Tarbell's Teachers' Guide.*

HIS FAVORITE WORD.

The world has many persons of good intentions, who are always going to do something "if"—and that spoils it. A young man who used it so often that it might have been mistaken for his favorite word, was keeping company with an admirable young lady. He judged by remarks reaching him that she surmised his love for her was waning, and, wishing to correct any such impression, wrote a missive, closing as follows:

"Why, dearest Clara, I would fight my way through fire to be with you. I would scale the highest mountain peak to be where you are. I would wade through floods up to my chin to stand by your side. Lovingly yours, CHARLEY.

"P. S.—If it don't rain, I will be over to see you Friday evening."

BELL-RINGING RECORD.

In 1784 a bell-ringing record of twelve thousand changes was established at Shoreditch. This stood unequaled for 130 years. In the early part of 1914 a team of campanologists made a continuous peal of bells at the parish church at Aston-under-Lyne, England, from seven o'clock in the morning until half-past four in the evening, with a total of fourteen thousand changes.

While at no particular church do the bells ring long, yet somewhere the wide world round every hour of the day the peals are sounding forth the call to worship, the calls to service. Every church-bell says, in effect, *"Come"* and *"Go."* *"Come* unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden," and *"Go* ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

"JUST KEEP PUSHING."

Two boys were making their way along the street with a small wagon loaded with scraps of fuel picked up at the railroad coal-chutes, relates the *Observer* of Cameron, Missouri. One was ahead, pulling—his hat back, eyes sparkling, and whistling cheerfully. The other was behind, pushing, and whining almost constantly because he stubbed his toes, stepped on stones or otherwise hurt himself. Finally the boy in front turned on him with this rebuke:

"Of course there's stones in the road! There's always stones and sticks in the road, and a feller's got to get over 'em the best way he can. It don't help any to howl and tell everybody when you strike 'em, either. Just shut your face and keep pushing."

Many older persons could profit by this boy's view of things.

"OPPORTUNITY."

They do me wrong who say I come no more,
When once I knock and fail to find you in;
For every day I stand outside your door
And bid you wake and rise to fight and win.

Wait not for precious chances passed away;
Weep not for golden ages on the wane;
Each night I burn the records of the day—
At sunrise every soul is born again!

Though deep in mire, wring not your hands and weep;
I lend my arm to all who say, *"I can!"*
No shamefaced outcast ever sank so deep
But yet might rise and be again a man.

—*Walter Malone.*

HE GOT HIS MAN.

During the Civil War an Indiana regiment was sent into battle before the recruits had received any training. They were ordered to charge. When they encountered the fire of the enemy, wavered, broke, and fell back, one young soldier kept straight on. He had heard the order to capture the entrenchment. When he reached the parapet and climbed it, he encountered a gunner ready to fire. He instantly seized him, whirled

him about, and, finding him alone, started for his regiment with his prisoner. The enemy did not shoot, fearing to kill their own man, and the raw recruit came safely back. To the astonished questioning of his comrades as to where he got the man, he replied: "Why, up there! And there's lots more of them up there. All of you fellows might have had one if you had only kept on."—*Sunday School Times.*

RESULT OF DAY-DREAM.

The African railroad from Cape Town to Cairo and Alexandria cost $300,000,000, writes Prof. A. L. Larkin, but it opened regions of almost fabulous wealth, touching salt deposits, gold fields, coal mines, dye and precious woods, of a total estimated value of $22,000,000,000, to say nothing of marketing the rich products of the soil. This all came about as the result of a day-dream of Cecil Rhodes as far back as 1890.

The great enterprise required the work of two million men, and the construction of twenty-three thousand culverts and eleven thousand bridges. Seven rivers were diverted from their course, three lakes changed in their beds and a small mountain-range almost leveled.

So must men press forward, overcoming all sorts of obstacles, if they would add to the wealth of character in the world. But it pays. The joy of conquering self and adverse surroundings can not be estimated in money values.

REMARKABLE BLIND PHYSICIAN.

The success of those who overcome serious handicaps should spur the average person on with a courage that would know no defeat. The world is quite familiar with the triumphs of Helen Keller, deaf and blind. John Pierto, of New York City, although blind, learned to operate a linotype machine, thus earning thirty dollars a week, and also plays the piano, says the *Boys' World.* R. H. Moulton writes of the success of Dr. Jacob W. Bolotin,

who was born blind. He determined to become a doctor, and permitted nothing to turn him from his decision. At the age of twenty-five he was appointed attending physician of the Illinois Tuberculosis Hospital, filling the position with honor.

The promise in Isa. 42:16 has practically been fulfilled in this age of wonderful achievements: "I will bring the blind by a way that they know not; I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things will I do, and I will not forsake them."

ONE NIGHT'S WORK.

Col. Theodore Kitching, who was private secretary to General Booth, of the Salvation Army, relates that over twenty-five years ago, when he returned one morning from a short trip, he found out the head of the great movement had been up all night. In answer to the question as to why he had not retired, he pushed toward his secretary several sheets of paper, on each of which was a verse of four lines. It was the wonderful song, "Boundless Salvation," which has swept around the world, and has been translated into every language used by the Salvation Army to carry its messages of deliverance from sin. The spirit and stirring power of the song are well set forth in the first two verses

"O boundless salvation! Deep ocean of love!
O fullness of mercy Christ brought from above,
The whole world redeeming, so rich and so free,
Now flowing for all men—come, roll over me!

"My sins they are many, their stains are so deep,
And bitter the tears of remorse that I weep;
But useless is weeping; thou great grimson sea,
Thy waters can cleanse me; come, roll over me!"

If you have never heard this soul-thrilling song, visit any Salvation Army post and request the soldiers of the cross there assembled to sing it. You will surely say that one whole night was not too much time to give to such a composition.

PERSONALITY.

NAPOLEON'S CRITICS.

He succeeds best who does the best he can. No one can do *his* best who endeavors to imitate *another*. Be yourself. Use the mind God has given you. Napoleon was severely criticized by the Austrian generals whom he had defeated because he "did not fight according to rule," they said. "He departs from all established precedent, marches at night, takes his antagonists unawares, and does all sorts of extraordinary things. He gains victories by being an ignoramus in the art of war."

PROMOTION THROUGH OBEDIENCE.

Mr. Tobin, who became a millionaire and president of the Hudson River Railroad Company, began life as a steamboat clerk with Commodore Vanderbilt, who gave the youth two orders: first, to collect fare of everybody who rode on the boat; second, to start on time and wait for no one. The Commodore then lived at Staten Island. Tobin obeyed orders so literally that he collected fare from the Commodore on the first evening, and left him on the wharf the next morning, as the boat could not wait. He was coming down leisurely some distance away, supposing, of course, the boat would wait for *him*. He was so pleased with Tobin that he made him his confidential clerk, from which time the young man's progress was rapid.—*Practical Encyclopedia.*

REAL ATTRACTIVENESS.

Santa Fe, New Mexico, the oldest city in the United States, except St. Augustine, existed as an Indian town as early as 1542, and was founded in 1605. Naturally it possesses landmarks of great interest, and its citizens systematically seek to preserve its distinctive characteristics. In this they show wisdom, giving their city an attractiveness it could not otherwise possess.

Personality, individuality, is the most attractive thing about

people as well, and yet hundreds, thousands, lose this charm in their efforts to conform to so-called customs and styles. In many a social gathering there is just about as much of the charm of personality manifested as would be seen in a brood of young chickens all the same size and color.

POWER.

STRENGTH OF INSECTS.

That the power of insects is prodigious has been demonstrated by the experiments of French naturalists and others. It appears that the smallest insects are strongest in proportion to their size. A horse can scarcely bear two-thirds of its own weight, while one small species of June beetle is able to lift ninety-nine times its own weight. Were the strength of man in proportion to that of the beetle, it is pointed out, he could play with weights equal to ten times that of a horse.

But we do not estimate the real power of man in this way. "As a man *thinketh,* so is he." One may weigh less than a hundred pounds, and yet far surpass tens of thousands of others of average or unusual weight, in all that goes to make up genuine strength of character and influence for good. *Heart-power* is the test.

MONEY WELL SPENT.

The Roosevelt dam in Arizona cost the people $3,000,000, and irrigates 220,000 acres of once useless land in the Salt River Valley. The expense was large, but in one year alone the crops raised yielded $5,000,000.

It costs parents more than money to raise a son or daughter right. It calls for sacrifice of time, of personal comfort; perhaps many sleepless nights by the bedside of a sick one; perhaps heartaches and tears; but we do not insult any father or mother by asking if it pays, when they can see coming into the lives of their offspring, and thus back into their own, the riches of

blessings in noble characters beyond any money value that might be mentioned. *It pays big.*

INCREASING CAPACITY.

Several years after the great Assouan dam in Egypt had been constructed, its height was increased twenty-six feet. The extra supply of water thus obtained from the river Nile irrigates an additional million acres of land each year.

Whatever we may accomplish in life, we should remember that we simply use what God provides, and that back of it all is the power of life which he puts into the rain and the sunshine. "So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase," says Paul—which is just as true of things material as of things spiritual.

PRAYER.

ALONE WITH GOD.

At the time of General Gordon's first sojourn in the Soudan there was one-half hour each morning during which a handkerchief lay outside his tent; and the whole camp knew the full significance of that small token. No message, however pressing, was carried in then. Every man understood that God and Gordon were alone in there together.—*Hurlbut.*

INCIDENT OF THE SEA.

Professor Drummond gives this striking illustration: "A gentleman and wife, with two children, a boy and a girl, were crossing the ocean. While playing, the boy dropped his rubber ball on the deck and it rolled overboard. He rushed to the captain, demanding that he stop the boat and recover it. The captain explained that it could not be done. A few days later was heard the cry, 'A man overboard!' Instantly the ship's machinery was stopped, lifeboats were lowered and the endangered life saved."

The application made by Mr. Drummond was that for a

trivial thing God will not *interfere* with the laws of creation, but where a man's soul is at stake God will stop the machinery of the universe, if necessary, to save him.

THE BOYS OF THE NAVY.

In an address made at a great reception in New York, where sixteen hundred men from the United States battleships were present, Secretary Daniels, of the navy, made this important statement: "I would like to say to you that I would not dare try to meet the obligations of life, nor fulfill the duties of my office with reference to more than fifty thousand men in our navy, did I not daily invoke the help and power that comes only from the Almighty."

"ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH."

During the Civil War fourteen inmates of Andersonville Prison, on August 20, 1864, bowed in prayer to the Almighty that he would send them water; and a spring broke out on the outside of the wall and ran through the prison. The people there were unanimous in their belief that it was of divine origin, the water in the near-by stream being fearfully unwholesome. The spring is reported to be still flowing.—*Christian Endeavor World.*

GOT THE JOB AND MADE GOOD.

William H. Ridgway writes: "A boy stopped me in the post-office one day and asked: 'Mr. Ridgway, is there any chance to learn the machinist's trade at your shop?' I told him there was no opening for a year. Then he went down to the works and asked Mr. Finnegan the same question. 'Not unless some fellow quits,' he was told. Almost every Saturday that boy came to my office with the question: 'Mr. Ridgway, any chance for a job yet?' After several weeks I said to Finnegan: 'For goodness' sake, give that Wollerton boy a job. He really wants to be a machinist.' He turned out to be one of the best boys we

ever had, and the last I heard of him he was at the head of a big shop in the West. When God's 'boys' come to him as this boy came to me, he will believe they really want what they ask, and they will get it."

HEARD MUSIC TWO HUNDRED MILES.

A marvelous instance of wireless transmission is given in the London *Daily Mail.* It says the strains of a gramophone, playing "God Save the King," were heard by wireless in the steamship "Highland Scot," during a voyage to Buenos Ayres. It was afterward found that the boat from which the music came was a private yacht, two hundred miles away.

If man is capable of constructing equipments by which code messages may be sent thousands of miles, and music distinctly heard a distance of two hundred miles without transmission by wire, it should not be a cause for wonder that God, the Creator of all things, can hear those who call upon him from any part of the world; or that the inspired John caught the music of heaven, as recorded in Rev. 14:2, 3: "And I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps; and they sung as it were a new song before the throne."

IN TOUCH WITH THE CAPTAIN.

A helmet and mask for firemen has been invented to which may be attached two long, narrow, portable hose, the ends of which enter the helmet exactly as similar ones enter a diver's cap. Through one of these fresh air is pumped by a fireman on the street, even though the one fighting the fire may be in the midst of smut and smoke, while the other hose is a speaking-tube, enabling the man in the burning building to communicate with or receive orders from the captain in command.

It is sometimes necessary for persons engaged in efforts to save endangered souls from the flames of appetite and passion to enter places where the surroundings are evil, the air foul

with profanity and vulgarity, where the voice of conscience has apparently been shut out. It is the privilege of such workers, by keeping in touch with God through prayer, to receive from him the pure air of unselfish love, thus keeping the thoughts clean, and to receive from him wisdom as to the best course to pursue in fighting the fires of wrong.

HOW HE SUCCEEDED.

Pastor Gossner sent into the foreign field 144 missionaries. He never had less than twenty dependent upon him for support. How he carried on this and other Christian work, a sentence from the funeral address read over his grave will explain: "He prayed up the walls of a hospital and the hearts of the nurses; he prayed mission stations into being and missionaries into faith; he prayed open the hearts of the rich, and gold from the distant lands."—*Robert E. Speer.*

PREJUDICE.

SIX WORDS SUFFICIENT.

After a two days' contest over the estate of a man who died in Virginia, the law and equity court wherein it took place decided that the words, "I leave all to my wife," constituted a legal will.

Strange that any one should have contested it. Many, however, are so strongly inclined in favor of set forms and extended phrases, not only in legal matters, but in other things as well, that anything out of the rut of custom strikes them as being inadequate.

A FREAK OF VISION.

A New Jersey boy, because of a strange deformity of the eyes, saw everything upside down. Many persons who visited the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 will remember the "upside-down" house, in which the people and the articles of furniture

appeared to be inverted. It is said the deception was wrought by the ingenious use of mirrors.

You may know individuals who find but little in life of which they approve. Tell them of the New Jersey boy. Remind them that our impressions are largely due to the way we look at things. Let's be sure the fault is not ours before complaining that "everything's going wrong." The devil is an expert in the use of mirrors.

SUGAR-COATED COURTESY.

Politeness enforced may be better than open contempt for another, but the sugar-coating is often in evidence. Senator Beveridge tells of two famous physicians, of different schools, who were introduced at a reception. As they shook hands, one remarked softly to the other:

"I am glad to meet you as a gentleman, sir, though I can't admit that you are a physician."

"And I," said the one thus addressed, smiling faintly, "am glad to meet you as a physician, though I can't admit you are a gentleman."

PREDICAMENT OF A BABE.

The curiosity of a crowd in a Chicago street-car was aroused by the sight of a mother getting on with a baby in her arms which had a tin bucket over its head. Observing the wonderment of some of the passengers, she explained that its head got caught in the pail while playing, and she was taking it to a plumber to have the bucket removed. While the child could not see, and evidently did not understand what the trouble was all about, it showed great displeasure by its spasmodic movements.

The babe's predicament is a picture of those who go through life blinded by prejudice. They can not understand why they appear so ridiculous in the eyes of others, and make themselves disagreeable by their wails of complaint. They should hunt up a plumber and have the bucket removed from over their eyes.

PREPARATION.

IN THE DARK ROOM.

The photographer takes his sensitive plate into a dark place to develop his picture. Sunlight would mar it. God often draws the curtain upon us, and, in the darkness, brings out some rare beauty in our life, some delicate feature of his own loveliness.—*George W. Abernathy.*

FROM JUBILEE TO FUNERAL.

While the bells of a Pittsburgh church were pealing for a procession in celebration of the silver anniversary of the priest, he dropped dead, and the jubilee was turned into a funeral. In his preparation for the one he was ready for the other.

"He who is best prepared to live is best prepared to die."

WHEN FACING DEATH.

A clergyman who served many years in one parish kept account of the number of those he visited who, in prospect of death, apparently experienced a change of heart. Out of two thousand who recovered, only *two* proved their repentance to be sincere. One thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight returned to their former attitude of indifference toward God. —*Sunday School Executive.*

THE COMB OF CONSCIENCE.

In making rope of the first grade, a machine is used for combing out the snarls, loose tow and dirt, otherwise the rope would be weakened from the start, and not able to stand the heavy strains later on.

Every growing boy should use the fine-tooth comb of conscience, and remove from his life all the "snarls, loose talk and unclean habits." Those who do this will be more agreeable to others, and far stronger for the duties, blessings and enjoyments of life.

LOOKING AHEAD.

Notwithstanding certain causes produce certain effects, many go ahead blindly, not stopping to count the cost. Mrs. Harris asked her husband if she should write and accept Mrs. Brown's invitation for Bobby to attend her boys' party on the 20th. "Yes," the father thoughtfully replied, "and while at it you'd better write to Dr. Walker to call on the 21st."

THE ARTIST'S PRECAUTION.

An artist, who invited a friend to his studio to show him his picture, first kept him in the dark room for fifteen minutes. He then explained that if he had come into the studio with the glare of the street in his eyes, he would not have been able to appreciate the fine colors on the canvas. The "shut-ins" may be only having their eyes prepared to see the wonderful vision of the Father's love.—*W. R. Clark.*

COMPLETE OUTFIT.

It is related of a native Chinese preacher that he addressed a large conference of workers as follows: "Ask the Master for Peter's hook to bring up fish; David's crook to guide the sheep aright; Gideon's torch to light up the dark places; Moses' guiding-rod; David's sling to prostrate your giant foe; the brazen serpent to cure the bites of the world's snakes; for gospel seed with no tares in it, and, above all, for the wonderful Holy Spirit to help at all times."—*J. Ellis.*

EVERY WIRE TESTED.

While the great Brooklyn bridge was building, the chief engineer one day showed me a peculiar sort of a machine. It was composed of great wheels set over against each other, revolving in opposite ways, pulling steadily on the wires which were to go into the huge cables of the bridge. A tremendous strain was brought to bear upon each wire to see whether it was

strong enough for the high place and dignity of a share in the majestic cables whence the roadway was to hang.—*Rev. Wayland Hoyt.*

IMMENSE FLAG-POLE.

A western Canadian city has a flag-pole in front of its court-house 208 feet tall, all in one piece—a single fir-tree weighing ten tons. It is three feet in diameter at the base and ten inches at the top. When brought from the forest it was left to "season" for a year, in order to make sure that it would be strong and straight.

The men chosen for the high places in life are those who have grown "strong and straight" in character, and who have been "seasoned" by resisting temptations until they were at last able to overcome them all.

BATHING AN ELEPHANT.

A writer in *Our Dumb Animals* says it requires 150 pounds of soap to give an elephant in captivity a bath, and for the finishing touches, olive oil worth $150.

We all know that a piece of soap as large as a marble is sufficient for a bath for the average boy—if the boy is consulted beforehand. We should prepare for any work in proportion to its requirements. Failure is safely predicted for many undertakings for the simple reason that the equipment is not commensurate with the work to be done.

RUNNING THE LAST LAP.

The boy chosen for the last lap in the one-thousand-mile Y. M. C. A. relay race from New York to Chicago a number of years ago was not at his post the instant the message was to be received by the one who should make the final sprint, so the responsible place was given to William McCabe, of the Evanston Association. Because he was capable and on hand he was afforded the honor and the pleasure of handing to the mayor

of Chicago the words of greeting from the mayor of New York.

Positions of honor and responsibility are always for those who are *ready* to step into them.

A BUOY PLAYS HOOKEY.

The marine department of the Canadian Government, at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, received notice that one of its buoys from the Gulf of St. Lawrence had been picked up in Australian waters. It had slipped its moorings in some way and had been adrift for two years in many seas, thus rendering no service to its own or any other country.

Many a youth has slipped the moorings of home influences and drifted far away before being overtaken by some good soul on the sea of life and returned to a place of purpose once more. My boy, don't be like the other "buoy." Have an aim. Be fixed in your determination to prepare for a place of usefulness in the world, so your friends will know "where to find you."

MUST GO WHEN CALLED.

Men in the employ of railroad companies must be ready to respond to the call for service at any time. In a great section of one of the cities the houses are nearly all occupied by the employes of a certain railway corporation. One of the requirements is that they must live within eight blocks of the yards, that they may act promptly when suddenly summoned to labor. Some are called at midnight, some at 2 A. M., and others at 5 A. M.

Men and women in the service of Christ, for making the world better, are expected to respond at a moment's notice to render any help possible. Those who are thus prepared are always ready to answer the last call. In the twelfth chapter of Luke we read: "Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching. . . . Be ye therefore ready also, for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

MORE WOMEN THAN MEN.

According to a European statistician, 105 boys are born to every 100 girls—and yet there are more women than men. He finds that from the thirty-fifth to the seventieth year the mortality among men is greater than among women. Because of a finer perception of her powers of endurance, he believes, woman stops when her perception warns her of fatigue, obtaining the needed rest, in preparation for renewed effort. A man does not stop until his power is exhausted.

"Every wise woman buildeth her house; but the foolish plucketh it down with her own hands" (Prov. 14:1). "The merciful man doeth good to his own soul, but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh" (Prov. 11:17).

WHEN THE WAY SEEMS CLOSED.

While studying a cocoon, a naturalist heard a tiny, beating noise inside, and knew it was a butterfly struggling to be free, says the *Christian Observer*. With a lancet he cut away the fragile walls and released the little prisoner. To his amazement, it lay struggling on the table, too weak to walk or fly, and soon died. It had been released before developing sufficient strength to take its place in the beautiful world of flowers and sunshine.

When the way seems closed to you, dear reader, do not become restless, but faithfully do the work nearest at hand. Perhaps you are not yet strong enough for the task God has waiting for you. Lessons in patience, perseverance, surmounting small obstacles, may be necessary in order to give you the strength for later surmounting larger ones and doing a far greater work.

THE MIDNIGHT ALARM.

Two hundred and fifty students, fifty instructors and as many maids in one of the large dormitories of a well-known college were awakened at night by the dread sound of the fire-

gong. They immediately closed their windows and transoms, and ten seconds later, when the next alarm was given, marched into the halls in perfect order, and out into safety. The building was completely destroyed, but not a life was lost. The fire-drill, which had been part of the training at this college for thirty years, made the remarkable escape possible.

Every young man and woman should prepare for the midnight alarm. Daily training along right lines will beget such a spirit of calm, courage and self-control that when the sudden temptations to do wrong come in the dark and discouraging hours they will find themselves prepared to resist, successfully and gloriously.

LOOKING AHEAD.

A comparatively young man, serving as railway division superintendent, wrote in August to his superiors for three snow-plows, to be furnished as soon as possible. When asked why he made such a request in warm weather, he replied:

"I want to be prepared. I know my division."

He was denied, the officers over him laughing at what they considered his needless anxiety. In December of that year heavy snows blockaded the tracks, and the company lost heavily through inability to keep the right of way open to trains. The young man was later censured for his lack of preparation for such an emergency. He referred them to his letter of the preceding August, and they found him blameless, as they reread the words quoted above.

Whatever your work, young man, *look ahead.*

WHY HE WAS READY.

James J. Hill, of the Great Northern Railway system, shows in the following instance the importance of a boy having his eyes open to what is going on around him: A youth, who had acted as messenger in one of the main offices of the company for several years, had his desk next to the clerk above him.

One day the young man was taken ill and obliged to leave the service. Owing to the nature of the work, it was necessary to have some one take his place immediately. The messenger-boy volunteered, declaring he could do it, and, when the chief clerk laughed incredulously, begged for a trial of half a day, which was granted. He took hold with an alertness and comprehension of his duties that startled all about him. He made good. In answer to the question of the chief clerk as to how he could instantly step into such a responsible place, he replied:

"Well, it's the desk nearest me, and I studied what the clerk was doing—studied all the time. I thought some day you might need a new man there and I got ready."

MAN AND TREE END LIFE TOGETHER.

Passing away at the age of eighty-five years, a farmer in Pennsylvania was buried in a coffin made of wood from a walnut-tree he planted and cared for all his life. This was in accordance with his expressed wish.

While this man, by his own labors, produced that which finally enclosed his remains, so do we all, by our deeds, prepare for the furnishing of "the home of the soul." Will it be beautifully furnished, or otherwise? The important thing is not to be greatly concerned about the care of the body, but to be very careful as to "the deeds done in the body"; not that the casket shall be made from any certain tree, but that the earth-life may be so spent that at its close may be claimed the promise in Rev. 22:14: "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

"AS SILVER IS TRIED."

A writer in the *Christian Herald* says she called on a silversmith with the request that he explain to her the process of refining, and that he said: "I sit with my eyes steadily fixed on

the furnace, since, if the silver remain too long, it is sure to be injured."

"And how do you know when it is sufficiently refined?"

"When I see my own image reflected in it, I know the process is completed."

Commenting upon this as she recalled the text in Malachi, "And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver," she wrote as follows:

"Surely it is a beautiful image. We are His chosen vessels, tested and purified in the divine crucible, and then fashioned into the shape best fitted for his use. We all have friends who have been thus refined and molded. How beautiful their lives! How efficient their service! Out of trial they have come forth as pure gold and silver. He has not tried them beyond what they are able to bear. He has sat before the furnace. When he has seen his image in their lives, he has been satisfied."

NOT THE WAY HE LEARNED.

Pretending to know what one does *not* know has caused embarrassment, if not some degree of failure, to many persons. This story, in substance, was published in the *Youth's Companion* many years ago:

A young Irishman, who wished to join the German Army, could not speak that language, but thought to overcome this deficiency by having a friend drill him in German on the few questions to be asked preceding enlistment. The first would be, "How old are you?" The second, "How much do you weigh?" and the third, "Have you rations or clothing?" To the first he was to answer "Twenty-eight"; to the second, "One hundred and eighty," and to the third, "Both." After several days, feeling sure of his ability to pass, he stepped confidently into the presence of the examining officer, when that gentleman, evidently impressed by his fine physique, asked: "Well, sir, what do you weigh?" Pat supposed the examination had commenced, so

replied, "Twenty-eight." "Oh, ho! You surely weigh more than that! How old are you?" "One hundred and eighty," was the undisturbed answer. The officer, thinking the young man was making fun of him, called out, indignantly, "Are you or I a fool?" *"Both!"* promptly came the answer, abruptly terminating the examination.

TESTING FOR SERVICE.

In the great Naval Observatory at Washington is a room in which chronometers—clocks for keeping time on the ships of our navy—are tested before being sent out. They are kept under the most careful observation for six months, in order to make sure they are reliable, for they must measure time with the utmost accuracy. The temperature and moisture of the room are made as near like conditions at sea as possible. The desired humidity is obtained by hanging up wet clothes around the room. Even with all this precaution in preparation, every ship in Uncle Sam's navy—so states Mr. Haskins in his book, "The American Government"—must carry at least three chronometers. If only one were used, there would be no means of knowing when it went wrong. If two, it would be impossible to tell which was right and which wrong, in case of variation. So they have three, and when two agree it is reasonably certain the third one is wrong.

We can learn of perfection from God in his wonderful works of nature. For instance, Professor Larkin says the speed of the earth in its orbital motion is 18.493 miles per second, and yet its movement is so perfect that its position at any given time in the future may be foretold by scientists with absolute certainty.

Before men are advanced to positions of responsibility they must prove themselves trustworthy. It should be the ambition of every young man to so conduct himself that whenever the question of right or wrong is raised concerning any matter in which he has a part, *he* will always be found right.

PRETENSE.

EXPOSED HER IGNORANCE.

In pretending to discuss matters with a knowing air when we are not fully informed, we are liable to appear as ridiculous as the woman in this story from *Judge*: "Mrs. Simonds glanced at the scare head-line, 'Bank Robbed! Police at Sea!' and laid down the paper. 'Now, look at that, Ez!' she ejaculated; 'here's a big city bank broke into by burglars, and the city police force all off fishin' somewhere!"

A WILD THROW.

The desire to appear informed on certain usages may result in the innocent statement of more truth than it is intended to reveal. Judge Pinckney, says *Everybody's Magazine,* tells of a colored man who was on trial at Dawson City for felony. The judge asked Sam if he desired the appointment of a lawyer to defend him.

"No, sah," said Sam, "I'se gwine to frow myse'f on de ignorance ob de cote!"

ANTICS OF A SEA-GULL.

When on a visit to Manchester I saw in the grounds of my host a sea-gull trying to amuse itself with a pie-dish. There was a little water in it, and the bird of the ocean was making the most of its swimming instinct. What a sight to see this bird, with its instinct for the unmeasured sea, trying to satisfy itself with so small a vessel! Is not that a picture of human nature trying to make itself contented in the conditions of this secular life?—*Rev. W. L. Walkinson.*

BITTER SWEET.

The mental state of the person whose mind dwells on the unpleasant things of life, when there is so much of brightness in the world, is hard to understand. You have perhaps heard

of the man who remarked, in answer to a question as to how he was feeling: "Not very well. I've been enjoying poor health for some time."

It is said that at a play described as "sweet and sad," where many were shedding tears, one man seemed much amused, even laughing occasionally. Finally a woman near him, who was sobbing, turned to him with these words: "If you don't like the play, you might let other people enjoy it!"

BOY TRIES TO DECEIVE.

Imprisoned in an Indiana jail on the charge of murdering a companion, a thirteen-year-old boy ate soap, hoping to make it appear he was subject to epileptic fits, and thus avoid being sent to a reform school.

Perhaps you have known persons to assume indignation with the hope of deceiving others into believing they were justly indignant over some matter, and thus ward off suspicion of some wrong of which they were actually guilty. Such instances are not unknown to most persons familiar with police-court proceedings. Their very vehemence usually arouses suspicion.

"The tongue of the wise uttereth knowledge aright, but the mouth of fools poureth out folly" (Prov. 15:2).

PROGRESS.

COINING WORDS.

It is well to be progressive and original, but a new idea may be carried too far to be really effective. The word "smog" was coined by a weather forecaster, meaning smoke and fog. The Kokomo *Tribune,* commenting upon the departure, says: "Let's call a mixture of snow and mud, 'smud;' of snow and soot, 'snoot;' of snow and hail, 'snail.' Thus we might have a weather forecast as follows: 'Snail to-day, turning to snoot to-night; to-morrow smoggy with smud.'"

REMARKABLE ADVANCE.

"The black man," says Booker T. Washington, "needs no sympathy or pity. I thank God that I belong to a race that has its problem to solve and is solving it. A short time ago I visited Italy, and there saw a race that has been free for hundreds of years, and yet thirty per cent. of its people can not read or write. In Spain sixty per cent., and in Portugal seventy-six per cent., can not read or write. When Lincoln freed my race, only three per cent. were literate. Now sixy-three per cent. can read and write."—*Michigan Christian Advocate,* 1913.

ONE DOLLAR FOR ERRORS.

One of the largest mercantile houses in the world, located in Chicago, pays its employes a dollar for every error in English one of them may find in any of the printed matter issued by the company. The aim is to attain to as near perfection as possible in this regard.

If the elimination of typographical errors is considered of so much importance, surely progress toward perfection in character-building is incomparable to any other phase of life. To quote from Heb. 6:1: "Wherefore leaving the doctrine of the first principles of Christ, let us press on unto perfection."

ON A GREAT ICE FLOE.

Peary, the Arctic explorer, says the *Missionary Review of the World,* found that on one occasion, when he supposed he was traveling toward the pole at the rate of ten miles a day, he was being borne in the opposite direction at the rate of twelve miles a day, by an immense ice floe. He made the discovery only by looking skyward to get his bearings.

Right intentions alone will not avail. The man who leaves God out of his life may possess a good negative character, but he must have the positive aggressiveness that comes from a life of faith. Without it he will discover later that he is on a floe

which is slowly but surely bearing him away from all that makes for real happiness. He must look heavenward in order to go forward.

AFRAID OF THE TOWER.

When the Eiffel Tower in Paris was first erected, there was a storm of protests, and such well-known names as Gounod, Leconte de Lisle, Coppee, Bonnat and Maupassant signed a petition against permitting it to stand, says the London *Daily News and Leader*. For many years the belief was persistent that it would topple to the ground. It was not until nearly a quarter of a century had passed that the fears of the people disappeared; then many were willing to live in the shadow of the great pile of steel.

Progress frequently calls forth protest or ridicule. When the first railroad locomotive was built and a great crowd had gathered to see it go, it is said an egotistical man meandered around, declaring: "It will never start; it will never start." When it finally darted away and some one asked him what he thought of it now, he just as firmly avowed: "It will never stop!"

PROVIDENCE.

THE FRENCH FAILURE.

During the Revolution in France, when it was resolved to do away with every particle of Christian influence there, it was decreed that, instead of having one day of rest in seven, as ordained by God, they would have one day in ten. When carried into effect, even the horses in the streets broke down under the extra strain. One skeptic was so impressed by the fact that one rest-day in seven was essential to the well-being of civilization that he wrote:

"So transcendent is the harmony of the proportion that, sooner than believe Moses pitched upon it by chance, I would believe some revelation had been made to him."

A WAY OF ESCAPE.

When Spain was fast coming into power, she determined to take England and abolish Protestant worship. The great fleet, the Spanish Armada, was sent for this purpose, writes Jennie M. Bingham, and on board the ships were instruments of torture, to be used in persecuting the good people of England. As the Spanish ships approached the shores of England, confident of victory, a great storm broke on the sea, wrecking them on every hand. Queen Elizabeth commanded that a medal be struck in memory of the remarkable and providential deliverance from the enemy, with the following from Ex. 15:10: "Thou didst blow with thy wind, and the sea covered them."

The Psalmist recognized the power of God in these words: "Above the mighty breakers of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty."

THE INVISIBLE ARM.

"The wireless telegraph has a long reach these days," said the San Francisco *Examiner,* in one of its 1914 issues. "Its latest exploit is to stretch an arm half-way across the Pacific and arrest two men charged with bank swindling, on board a ship bound for the South Seas. A few years ago they would have escaped."

If man, in discovering and using laws which God has put in force, can speak through space without the aid of wires or other visible things, and thus overtake men far out at sea, should it be thought strange that God, the all-wise and all-powerful, can shape circumstances to do his will in us? To the thoughtful it seems far more reasonable to believe he can do so than that man may send messages many thousand miles on air-waves.

In Ps. 139:9, 10 are these significant words: "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."

PURPOSE.

VALUE OF CONVICTIONS.

Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of Stanford University, says: "The world steps aside to let any man pass who knows where he is going." Another teacher said: "It is one thing to know; it is another to *know* that you know."

WHAT HE WROTE IN A BOOK.

Henry F. Ashurst, elected to the United States Senate from Arizona, wrote his name in one of his books when a schoolboy of ten, at Flagstaff, and after it these words: "United States Senator from Arizona." He traveled a hard road, serving as lumber-jack, cowboy, clerk, cashier in a store, hod-carrier and lawyer, but he made his penned prophecy come true, because he had *purpose,* and persevered.

POOR MARKSMEN.

Military experts estimate that from three to five thousand shots are fired by small-arms for every man who is hit in battle.

With many persons the 3,600 seconds in each hour of the day are wasted, with perhaps not one slight effort for the accomplishing of good. Have an aim in life. Become a good marksman. Make every waking moment one of worthy purpose.

THE SEED OF EMANCIPATION.

Lincoln began his preparation for the White House in a little log cabin. In his youth he went once to New Orleans with a raft-load of vegetables and produce to sell. He chanced upon the slave-market, where he saw husbands separated from their wives, and children sold from their parents. He said to his companions: "Boys, if I ever get a chance to hit this thing, I'll hit it hard, so help me God." He went home saying: "I'll study and get ready, and maybe the chance will come." The chance *did* come, and he *was* ready because of the purpose he had

formed and the preparation he had made, enabling him to sign beneath the Emancipation Proclamation the magic words, "Abraham Lincoln."

VALUE OF A SECOND.

Realizing that an error of a minute or two might lead the commander of a fleet to miscalculate his position, and thus decide the fortunes of a battle or a war, a great observatory has been established at Washington by the Navy Department, for the purpose of providing the exact time for its ships. A big master clock is kept in a hermetically sealed case in an isolated vault, with the temperature always the same. This clock is so accurate that it has run for three weeks without the difference of the hundredth part of a second.—*F. J. Haskin.*

The person who would be reliable in any sphere must have a purpose and must cultivate the habit of punctuality. "On Time" is an important motto for all who are engaged in fighting the battles of life.

WHY ONE WAS A BEGGAR.

Two men who had been schoolmates together, both the sons of poor parents, met by accident on the streets of Boston, one asking alms before either recognized the other; then a long, confidential talk followed. The beggar acknowledged he had no purpose in life. As a boy he stood low in his studies, so left school for work, which he performed indifferently, losing one job after another, until there seemed no place for him. When the force in the factory where he had been employed was cut down, he was among the first to be laid off.

On the other hand, the successful young man, even in boyhood, had a firm purpose to prepare for a successful career, and he *won out.* The other didn't look ahead, and he *lost* out. It was not *luck* that made the difference, but *pluck,* perseverance, patience, *purpose.*

DO IT NOW.

There's a motto I once saw
  Hanging on an office wall,
That impressed me as a law
  Binding on us, one and all;
Let us greet it with a bow—
Here it is, sir: "Do It Now!"

There is something to be done,
  And the doing falls on you—
No one else—and you're the one
  Who can surely put it through.
Why not here, sir, make the vow
That you'll do it? Do it now.

It may be no easy task;
  It may opposition raise;
It may tireless effort ask;
  It may promise you no praise.
Do not shirk it; knit your brow—
Jump right in, and *do it now.*

—*Joseph G. Gabriel.*

ALMOST RUN DOWN.

One morning Donald observed that the big clock was striking the hour very slowly, and heard his Uncle John remark: "Sounds as if the striking part of it is nearly run down." Donald not only saw him wind it, but did not forget. The following Sunday morning, while his uncle was reading the paper, his wife came in and inquired if he were going to church. He replied very slowly: "Oh, I—I suppose so." Donald eyed him wonderingly as he remarked: "Why, Uncle John, that sounds as if the meeting side of you was nearly run down! Is it?" Aunt Hannah laughed, and Uncle John flushed as he threw the paper aside, saying: "Maybe it is, Donald. But we'll wind it up again and get a little stronger movement. Neither clocks nor people are of much use when the springs that ought to keep them going are neglected."—*Forward.*

The best way to keep your interest in life from "running down" is to punctually wind up your "works" with the key of unselfish interest in others.

RESPONSIBILITY.

THE BEAST IN THE HUMAN.

The unnatural mother sow that devours her own offspring is far more merciful than the mother-woman who turns her children over to others for the care she should give, leaving them finally to drift out into the world to be devoured by the forces of evil.

WHEN YOU'RE A BRICK.

When Tommy says admiringly to Harry, "You're a brick!" I wonder if he knows how the saying originated. In the golden days of Greece an embassador once came from Epirus to Sparta, and was shown by the king over his capital. He expressed surprise to find no walls around the city. "Indeed," the king replied, "you can not have looked carefully. Come with me to-morrow and I will show you the walls of Sparta." On the following morning he led his guest out upon the plains, where his army was drawn up in battle array, and, pointing proudly to the valiant soldiers, he said: "There you behold the walls of Sparta—every man a brick!"—*Sadie M. Harley.*

UNDER HEAVY BONDS.

"Because of the valuable nature of the radium which they are to handle in giving treatment to patients, every nurse in the new Milwaukee Radium Hospital will be required to provide a bond of $100,000."

The above appeared in the press dispatches. There are many methods of treatment for physical ills, but only one remedy for the cure of sin-sick souls. It is given in Heb. 9:14: "How much more shall the *blood of Christ,* who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

The bond required of all who serve in positions of responsibility under Christ's leadership is that of absolute fidelity to

him. The command is given in Acts 20:28: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Spirit hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath *purchased with his own blood.*"

THE LONDON TRUMPETERS.

Since the year 1514 the city of London has had its own trumpeters, their duty being to march through the streets, with trumpets sounding, announcing the coming of some state or civic procession. With their picturesque robes, their stately step, and the loud, clear blasts from their instruments, they are the center of attraction.

Every one who loves his fellow-men should count himself a trumpeter, a watchman of the Lord, to give warning, that the busy, thoughtless throngs of the city streets may not be ensnared by the evils so prevalent there. We can not be blameless if we do otherwise. In Ezek. 33:4-6 we read that whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning, if the sword come and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head; but if the watchman blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned, and the sword come and take away any person from among them, his blood will be required at the watchman's hand.

WHAT CARD-PLAYING DID.

During the great "King's Business" revival movement in Philadelphia this story was told: "While a friend of mine was conducting a meeting a tramp came in and said: 'My father and mother used to sit in this pew. Seven boys used to be here in the Sunday-school class. One Saturday the teacher invited us to her home. She entertained us with music, eatables, and a review of the Sunday-school lesson. After awhile, being eager to please and hold our attention, she taught us the names of cards and how to play several games. We became enthusiastic over them, and would not give so much time to the lesson, and

finally were off in the cotton-gins playing cards, and not going to her home. Later we failed to go to Sunday school. Cards, cigarettes, then drinking and gambling. We all at different times left our homes. Two of those boys have been hung, three are in State's prison for life, one a vagabond like myself. All I wish is that that teacher had never taught us how to play cards.'"—*Church Herald.*

PAINFUL CONTRAST.

In one year of plenty in the United States it was estimated that if the grain crops for the markets could have been placed in one continuous line of box-cars, it would have made a train seven thousand miles long. That same year Kansas alone had approximately 8,873,000 acres of wheat, 5,500,000 acres of corn, and 1,470,000 acres of oats.

In one paper giving this report, the very next item stated that in China at that time were two million people homeless and starving, due to the destruction of crops by floods in two provinces.

That was a deplorable condition of affairs. But something just as terrible may be found in practically every large city. In the banks are piles of gold and silver belonging to the few. On the great avenues are the palaces of the rich, while not very far away are the many hovels called homes, where human beings live. Truly, the responsibility resting upon those who have an overabundance is great, for, as we read in Ecclesiastes, "the profit of the earth is for all; the king himself is served by the field." Again, for their own souls' good the rich should gladly help the poor, for "there is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun; namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt."

In the thirteenth chapter of Proverbs, verse 7, we read: "There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great wealth."

SACRIFICE.

HOW TO COUNT SELF.

"Remember, my son, you are always third," said a mother to her son who was leaving for college. When he reached the school he wrote on a card and hung it in his room: "I'm third." Said he to his chum, in answer to a question as to what it meant: "First, God; second, others; third, myself."—*Lulu A. Hasbrouck.*

BOUGHT HOUSE TO BURN.

Wishing to obtain a realistic fire-scene for a moving-picture film, a manufacturer in New York State looked about until he found a house that would answer his purpose, then bought it at no small expense. He deliberately set it on fire. During the burning his battery of cameras took the desired pictures, from which, no doubt, he made money far in excess of the cost of the burned building. We often get more joy by giving up some things than by holding on to them.

WRECKED HIS LOCOMOTIVE.

An engineer who was bringing a passenger-train into Joliet, Illinois, at a point where the track was elevated, saw an open switch overhead. Instantly he threw on the air-brakes to block the cars, and pulled out the throttle, his engine leaping ahead, snapping the coupling of the first coach, leaving it on the brink of the open street-crossing. The locomotive was overturned. Passengers rushed forward and found the faithful engineer unconscious, but alive, with his hand still upon the throttle.

Another engineer, during the floods in a Western State, deliberately ran several flat-cars off the track on the side of an embankment where the high waters threatened to eat away the road-bed. His action cost the company several thousand dollars, but saved the track, thus enabling coming passenger trains to pass over in safety.

WHEN ROYALTY TRAVELS.

On the occasion of his visit to the Sultan of Turkey at Constantinople, the Kaiser of Germany traveled with great pomp and splendor, making most of the trip overland, accompanied by eight hundred mule-drivers and three hundred waiters. The Shah of Persia, during a six months' tour of Europe in 1873, spent $10,000,000. King Edward's trip to India, when Prince of Wales, in 1875, cost $1,500,000, his queen mother, Victoria, paying two-thirds of the amount out of her own private funds, in order that he might make a proper impression upon the native rulers. The tour was arranged by Sir Bartle Frere, who spent seven months in working out the details.—*London Tit-Bits.*

The most momentous journey in the history of the world was that of Christ when he went to Jerusalem the last time, many in the multitudes spreading their garments in the way, and others branches of palms, while they that went before and they that followed, cried: "Hosanna! Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord!" Upon reaching Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred, saying: "Who is this?" And the multitudes said: "This is the prophet, Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee."

This journey was also the most expensive in the history of the world, for it cost the precious, matchless life of Christ. He gladly made the sacrifice, not for spectacular effect in order to impress his power upon the rulers of that day, but to impress upon all, in an unmistakable way, his boundless love for a lost world. He spent three years in preparation for this journey to the cross of Calvary. Conquering death, the enemy of man, he lives as King of kings and Lord of all, loved and served by millions in each passing generation.

DEATH TOLL OF PANAMA CANAL.

Scarcely a great project is carried through to success without costing many lives. When the Panama Canal had been completed, making it possible to accomplish in a few hours of safe

travel what had before required many weeks of dangerous combat with the sea, it was announced that over two thousand workmen there had died from accidents or fevers.

The greatest sacrifice the world has ever known was when Christ was crucified. Age upon age the wisest men of earth had sailed blindly forth in unsuccessful efforts to ascertain what lies beyond the mists of death. By his three days in the tomb, coming forth in glorious resurrection, Jesus solved the mystery, proving that for those who go with him, there are life, light and joy eternal beyond the grave.

CUT OFF HIS OWN HAND.

While operating a pump at a mine shaft in Colorado, a young engineer's hand was caught in the machinery. Unable to free himself, he cut it off at the wrist, with his pocket-knife. Had he refrained from doing so, for the sake of saving his hand, he would have lost his entire body.

Clinging to any habit, for the sake of temporary gratification, may mean the loss of one's soul. Regardless of cost or effort, we should be as consistent in dealing with our souls as was this young engineer in dealing with his body. This principle is strikingly emphasized by Christ in Matt. 5:29, 30, where he teaches that even the eye must be put away if it offends—"the eye that giveth a lustful look" (Johnson). "And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

TRUE HEROISM.

Willie Rugh, a Chicago newsboy cripple, who lived in the suburb of Gary, died in the fall of 1912, as the result of his lame leg being amputated that the skin from it might be used in grafting onto the burned body of Ethel Smith, a girl whom he hardly knew. After the operation he seemed to be doing well

for a time, then pneumonia set in. When told he could not recover, he smiled, and said faintly: "I'm glad I done it, doctor. Tell her for me I hope she gets well quick." Then, turning his face away, he continued: "I guess I'm some good, after all."

The response awakened by his sacrifice was as remarkable as the act itself. The papers far and near published the story in detail. Gary went into mourning for the boy. Public offices were closed, business was suspended, and the whole town turned out. The Masons furnished a band for the funeral, and the preachers were all present, paying rich tributes to the hero discovered by accident and enshrined by death. A cordon of police encircled the cortege as it passed along the silent streets. A large sum of money was raised for the purpose of erecting a monument, and the mayor issued a proclamation in which he said:

"The name of Willie Rugh should be remembered in Gary as long as the city shall last."

SALVATION.

THOUSANDS PASS JEWEL.

A lost bracelet worth $3,000 lay in a tuft of exposed grass near York, Pennsylvania, the greater part of a winter, and was finally found by a gardener's son, a tiller of the soil.

In all our large cities are exposed jewels of priceless value—human souls—and thousands pass them by without notice. When one comes along who is a real worker in the vineyard of the Lord he readily discovers and rescues the jewels, restoring them to their Owner and Redeemer—Christ, the Saviour of all.

THE VALUE OF NAMES.

The Kansas City *Star* explains how various firms come into possession of names and addresses throughout the country. Perhaps you order something by mail, and the house to which you send not only keeps the address for its own future use, but sells

it to other firms in different lines; or, some one in your locality may have sent in a list, receiving pay for the same at the rate of so much a name. Clerks in tax-collectors' offices frequently write to mail-order houses and department stores, offering to sell the name of every taxpayer in their county, which usually brings from two to ten cents each. If you have ever bought medicines or treatment by mail, and this becomes known, your name is worth from twenty-five cents to five dollars.

This may be of no practical importance to you, "but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10: 20), for in Rev. 3: 5 we read: "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

SIGN-BOARDS IN THE DESERT.

Signs directing travelers to the nearest water have been placed throughout the seventy thousand square miles of the "American Sahara" of the Southwest. Intense suffering from thirst has been the experience of many while crossing the great desert.

But the thirst of the weary, dust-covered pilgrim for a refreshing drink is nothing compared with the thirst of the soul for something that earth can not supply. We find it clearly stated in the words of Jesus while talking to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well: "Every one that drinketh of this water shall thirst again; but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up unto everlasting life."

WONDERFUL LIGHTHOUSE.

Nearly two thousand shipwrecks have occurred off the northwest coast of Africa since 1655, due to storms and treacherous rocks. To overcome the danger, the United States, England,

Germany, France, Turkey and the Khedive of Egypt have united in building the Great Haven lighthouse at an expense of over $5,000,000, work on which was commenced in October, 1913, and to be completed by 1918. It faces the southern entrance to the Mediterranean. It is estimated the light from it may be seen one hundred miles on a clear night, twenty-five miles in foggy weather, and five miles under even the most unfavorable circumstances, this being sufficient distance to protect vessels from wreckage.

And yet how puny compared to the millions of miles God's great lights in the heavens may be seen.

Men, like ships, are in danger and need light. The flickerings from the pages of history will not suffice. Since the birth of Christ there has been an unfailing Light, not limited by time and distance, showing the way of safety to every storm-tossed soul, for "in him was life, *and the life was the light of men.*"

LOVE OF LIBERTY.

Men in prisons resort to all sorts of plans in the hope of obtaining their freedom, even at the great risk of their lives. One of the most desperate and clever attempts imaginable was that of James B. Clifton, in August, 1911, serving a life sentence at San Quentin, California. In some way he managed to saw through the bars of his cell, then slid down the outside of the building a height of four stories to the roof of an adjoining structure. From here, by the aid of a broom-handle and two ropes, he started to slide down an electric wire leading to a pole outside the prison walls, when it is supposed he lost his balance and grabbed the heavily charged wire. His dead body, through which four thousand volts had passed, was found astride the wall.

Physical freedom is sweet indeed, but ten thousand times more precious is freedom from sin, and freedom from the things that bind one as with chains of iron. This liberty comes

but by the power of Christ, and is never refused those who seek it in faith and sincerity. "If therefore the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

UNINHABITED PALACE.

After Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., had spent $350,000 for a palatial residence of sixty rooms, and $125,000 in furnishings, it was destroyed by fire before she had moved in, the flames starting from an overheated flue. The palace was located on Cedar Swamp road, in the rich residential section of Long Island. In it were many valuable tapestries, paintings, and other treasures, and not a thing was saved.

Fire may destroy the humble home or the palace, but nothing can destroy the "home of the soul" of those who are laying up treasures in heaven by joyfully, unselfishly living for the good they may do.

"For we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

SELF-CONTROL.

THE DANGER WITHIN.

Zeno, the father of Stoicism, taught that the only evil that can come to a man is the evil that comes to him by and through his infidelity to his personal sense of right; that unless a man harms himself, nothing else can, and that he can only harm himself by lending himself to vicious causes.

WHY THEY DON'T SMOKE.

Dr. Royal J. Dye, for many years a missionary at Bolenge, Africa, says that when the natives become Christians they give up all habits which they consider contrary to the teachings of the gospel, feeling that they must be different from those who have not taken the step. He gives an instance of an old chief

endeavoring to persuade some of the converts to smoke with him. "No," was the reply of one who acted as spokesman, "when we become Christians we don't smoke. If we did, we would smell just like the others."

HOLDING THE REINS.

After twenty-five years' experience, an old stage-driver boasted he had never hurt a passenger, nor a horse, simply because he always had a firm hold on the reins. "I never let the horses get the start; that's the whole secret," said he.

Very trivial things have started runaways, resulting in loss of life and much damage. So it may be that some apparently insignificant act will start a young man on a course of conduct that means ruin. It may be but a glass of wine, resulting in an appetite that soon gets beyond control, ending in a drunkard's grave. *Hold the reins,* young man.

THREW AWAY THE KEY.

When a certain restaurant was opened in New York years ago the proprietor procured an all-night license and threw away the key to his door. For a quarter of a century the place was never closed, but finally came the imperative order that it be locked up at 1 A. M. every night, as were other restaurants. The owner was compelled to obey or give up his business.

Those who begin to live the unrestrained life must throw away the key of conscience. If they heed not the "still small voice within," and do not mend their ways, they must pass on into "outer darkness."

REBUILDING THE TRACK.

The double track of a railroad line down the western slope of a mountain in the Northwest was rebuilt on a new foundation, and the grade reduced from 211 feet to 105½ feet to the mile—not to help *up-hill* traffic, strange as it may seem, but to make the operation of trains *down* the hill safer and more prac-

tical. "Letting heavy freight-trains down the hill safely has been, owing to the limit in capacity of air-brake equipment," says one writer, "a big and uncertain job."

Many persons who have started down-hill in life, thinking they can put on the brakes and check their speed at will, have found they could not do so, owing to the limit in capacity of will-power. Such would do well to rebuild their life-track as near "on the level" as possible, and not complain if much of the way is up-hill. It is much safer than the other kind. Going down-hill is "a big and uncertain job" for any one.

EVIL SPEAKING.

Men are born with two eyes, but with one tongue, that they may see twice as much as they say.—*Cotton.*

Believe not half you hear, and repeat not half you believe. My uncle used to say, "When you hear an ill report about any one, halve it and quarter it, and then say nothing about the rest." —*Spurgeon.*

SELFISHNESS.

STANDARDIZING RAILROADS.

In the early days of railroad-building in India, Australia, Japan and the Chinese Empire, practically every line was constructed as a local proposition, without regard to others. This resulted finally in much inconvenience, greatly hindering the development of the countries, and consequently worked against the best interests of all concerned. In the days of China's awakening a movement was inaugurated for standardizing all of the roads in the kingdom. This improvement involved enormous expense, which could have been prevented had all lines been of standard gauge from the first. The cost in Japan alone of changing five thousand miles of narrow-gauge lines into standard-gauge, according to a Boston paper, is estimated at $150,000,000.

The person who, in his early years, starts out to "live for himself" may think he is following a wise course, but learns later that he is on a narrow-gauge line; that the developing of all that is best within him is being greatly hindered. It is when he adjusts himself to a consideration of others' interests as well as his own that he finds living really worth while.

THEY FELT SAFE.

The trait of thinking of self first is cleverly brought out in a story in the *Christian Endeavor World*. Two mechanics were called to a house to do some repair work on the second floor. The lady there thought a gentle hint might save rough treatment of her fine hardwood floors, so remarked sweetly to the men: "As you go upstairs you had better walk lightly, for the steps are polished and very slippery." With beaming countenance one of them replied: "That's all right, ma'am. You needn't worry about us falling. We've got spikes in our shoes."

CRIMES FOLLOW QUARRELS.

Life is full of examples of disastrous results following petty matters. For instance, in one issue of a paper was recorded a dispute over a line fence in West Virginia which resulted in two farmers being killed and another seriously wounded; and a fight over a stray cow in Texas which led to the killing of a man and the wounding of six members of his family.

Selfishness leads to lack of self-control. Placing the emphasis upon the really important things of life is the best cure. And nothing is more important than the spirit of "peace on earth, good will toward men."

In Proverbs we have these significant words: "The integrity of the upright shall guide them; but the perverseness of the treacherous shall destroy them. . . . He that despiseth his neighbor is void of wisdom; but a man of understanding holdeth his peace."

SERVICE.

WHERE PLEASURE IS FOUND.

Prince Dr. Ludwig, uncle of King Alfonso, of Spain, once remarked that medicine interested him more than anything else, adding: "There is really no pleasure in the empty honors of court; pleasure exists in service."

THE HARDER PART.

"The leg you use must grow very tired," an onlooker remarked to a potter working at his wheel. "No, it's the leg that does nothing that gets tired," was the reply. And it is the people who do most in the Lord's work who are least tired.—*Mrs. R. W. Lowe.*

MUTUAL HELP.

"Two neighbors, one blind and the other lame, were called to another place. The sightless one carried the cripple, the latter directing the way, and thus they made the trip in safety. By each doing what he could, their purpose was attained."

HIS LAST WORDS.

Knowles Shaw, who was killed in a railway wreck soon after leaving Dallas, Texas, for another meeting, was conversing with a fellow-passenger when the crash came. His last words were: "What a glorious thing it is to rally men and women to the cross of Christ!"

THE WORLD'S WONDERS.

Alexander's seven wonders of the world were things of pride and pomp, constructed to glorify and amuse the few. Discord, death and misery for the many were the result of the proud plans of their making. To-day, if we were asked to make a list of the seven modern wonders of the world, we would name the things that contribute to human happiness and to our well-being. —*Elbert Hubbard.*

WHERE TO STEP IN.

In the Civil War a soldier, who had lost his place, timidly asked General Sherman, "Where shall I step in?" "Anywhere," said the general; "there is fighting all along this line." And that is precisely true of the great battlefield to which you and I belong.—*H. E. Fosdick.*

LOCATING THE TROUBLE.

If the church does not miss you when you remain away from the service, it is a far worse commentary upon you than upon the church. The fact that you are not missed is more likely to be due, not to the others' lack of appreciation, but rather to your lack of faithfulness.—*The Lookout.*

WHICH ARE YOU?

The difference between a salesman and a clerk is that the salesman finds customers, while customers must find the clerk. In business for God, are you a salesman or a clerk? Must sinners find you, or do you find them? Does your church find men, or must men find your church? One good salesman is worth a dozen clerks.—*The Expositor.*

SAFETY IN SERVICE.

The rails of the track in almost constant use are bright and shining. On the others the rain settles and they rust. If our life is hid in Christ, the rains of sorrow, affliction, adversity and temptation may come upon it, and it will always shine; while the life not hid in Christ will succumb to temptations and finally drift away from him.—*Rev. F. J. Smith.*

HER RESOLUTION.

Sam Jones, the well-known evangelist, once conducted what he termed a "quitting meeting." Those who wished were given the opportunity to stand up and tell of things they had been doing which they had determined to quit. Finally a good old

lady arose, and in her kindly way said: "I've been doing nothing, and I'm going to quit it!"

OBSTACLES AS STEPPING-STONES.

A writer in the *Christian Standard* relates the following:

"A young doctor by the name of Brown, with the brightest prospects for a successful career as a physician, was stricken with blindness. 'O God,' he prayed, 'I consecrate my talent of blindness to thee.' And he worked out the alphabet for the blind! How immeasurable has been his gift to afflicted mankind!"

LIFETIME OF HARVESTING.

An Indiana man, seventy-seven years of age, commenced carrying water for hands in the harvest-field when only seven years of age, and continued every season afterward as a worker in wheatfields.

No boy or girl is too young, nor is any man or woman too old, to help in God's great world-wide harvest-field—first in sowing seeds, then "gathering in the golden grain."

A QUESTION OF ABILITY.

There is a plant in South America called the "pitcher-plant," on the stalk of which, below each leaf, is a little cuplike formation which is always full of water, whether it be when it is very small or when it reaches its maturity. All that God asks is that the heart should be cleansed from sin, and full of love, whether it be the tender heart of the little child or the full-grown man. —*Christian Advocate.*

A SEASHORE LESSON.

I was impressed by the lesson which a father taught his children by the seashore. He placed a silver dollar upon the sand just above the water-line. In a few moments several incoming waves had buried it from sight. Then, before he

allowed them to dig it out, he said: "Everything valuable that we allow to lie unused is soon buried by the tide of life as this dollar has been buried by the tide of the ocean."—*Forest E. Dager.*

THE ANXIOUS HORSE.

A traveler noticed that a farmer near the roadside was having trouble in keeping his horse going. "No, he ain't balky," explained the owner, "but he's so afraid I'll say 'Whoa' and he won't hear me, that he stops every once in awhile to listen."

Those who work for others shouldn't waste time looking at the clock. Observed fear of working overtime fails to make a good impression on the average employer.

KITES CARRY WIRES.

The repair crew of a telephone line in California, which had been destroyed by a storm, quickly established temporary communication over a swollen river by making and flying several kites, to which were attached a wire. The experiment was so successful that the company later installed kites as a part of the equipment.

A thing of sport for boys has been made a thing of service for others. We should consider nothing beneath us which can be used for a helpful purpose.

SPIRIT AND CLOTHES MATCHED.

Walking behind a beautifully dressed young lady, this thought came to a man: "I wonder if she takes half as much pains with her heart as she does with her clothes?" A little farther on he saw her spring suddenly forward to open a heavy gate for a poor old man with a loaded wheelbarrow, who wished to pass through into his yard, where there was a humble cottage. The girl received the thanks of the old man with a sweet smile. The stranger passed on, saying to himself: "She deserves the beautiful clothes, for she has a beautiful spirit."

A PLACE FOR ALL.

One of Beethoven's most famous concertos was suggested to him as he heard repeated knocks in the stillness of the night at a neighbor's door. The concerto begins with four soft taps of the drum—raised in this work to the rare dignity of a solo instrument. Again and again the four beats are heard throughout the music, making a wonderful effect. God uses even the humblest player. A man who can play only a drum can be made valuable in the music of the world.—*Christian Register.*

STUFFED DOG ATTACKED.

A Chicago canine, mistaking a stuffed dog for a live one, leaped through a taxidermist's window, and, before any one could interfere, tore the mounted animal to pieces.

Foolish creature, we say; but not half so foolish as people who mistake the coddling of poodles for human affection, wasting time and strength in caring for them, while the same expenditure of money and energy would provide cheer and comfort for thousands of orphan boys and girls hungering and thirsting for "just a little bit of love."

"ENSLAVING TELEPHONES."

E. H. Harriman, the well-known railroad man, had a telephone in his private car, one in his camp in the Oregon wilderness, and at home had one in his bathroom. In the mansion which he finally built for himself, there were a hundred telephones, and sixty of them were connected with the long-distance lines. A magazine writer said: "Harriman is a slave to the telephone," to which he replied: "Nonsense! The telephone is a slave to me."

This is the right conception of things. No one should be a slave to money, nor to anything that money can provide. We should never serve them, but make them serve us in the better doing of life's worth-while work.

WHERE WORTH COMES IN.

Several girls at a boarding-school were endeavoring to humiliate a girl from the country by boasting of things they could not do. She listened until they had finished, then said: "I would be ashamed to be as helpless as you are—to be like a baby and have some one wait on me. You may talk about your fathers being worth money, but I'm worth something in myself. I cook, wash, sew, scrub, bake, iron, milk, and make butter. I'm proud of what I can do, and would never *think* of boasting about what I *can't* do."—*Girls' Companion.*

HOW A FAMOUS POEM WAS INSPIRED.

A poor, childless old couple living in England, on a rocky farm, with their humble house almost in the road, formed the habit of supplying travelers with refreshing drinks from a cold spring in the near-by hillside, and giving fragrant apples from their trees. Sam Walter Foss was once thus ministered to by them, and it inspired him to write the beautiful poem, "The House by the Side of the Road." The old gentleman explained to him that they were too poor to give money, so took this way of adding their mite to the world's well-doing.

HUMILITY WON HIS HEART.

H. B. Gibbud relates that one day, when going from cell to cell in his prison work, he was called back by a man, who asked if he remembered him. He did not. "Well," said the man behind the bars, "I remember you, for you got me out of one of the dives in Mulberry Bend in New York City, and took me to the Florence Mission. I was nearly naked, shivering so with delirium tremens that I could not dress myself. You got some clothes and put them on me. One thing more—you blacked my boots, saying as you did so that I wanted to look nice. I did not want your religion then, but to think you cared enough about my soul to black my boots—why, I could never get away

from that. It has followed me ever since, and now I want your religion."

SMALL, BUT LARGE ENOUGH.

A space only thirty-four inches wide and sixteen feet long between two buildings in New York was utilized, for a rental of $600 a year, by a man who established a job-printing office on the strip. The plant is in the path of heavy travel where hundreds of thousands pass to and fro, and, because of the convenience of location and the good work done, it pays well.

If you have a humble position where many come and go, it may be your good fortune to render them a helpful service denied to more pretentious persons, and in turn bring you a joy that any one might cherish with gratitude.

GIVING BEES A START.

By the use of artificial combs the bees of America have more than doubled the supply of honey. Because they have been aided to this extent they do not "loaf" a portion of the time, but keep busy just the same, thus enabling them to accomplish far more than the bees which have not this advantage.

Many a well-to-do young person might get a helpful lesson from this. If you have the advantage of a good start in life, do not feel that you have a right to "kill time." Keep busy. Do something for the good of the world, that you may add much to the sweetness of life for others less fortunate.

COUNTED MILLIONS CORRECTLY.

Expert accountants found that George W. Evans, disbursing officer of the Department of the Interior of the United States, handled $385,000,000 in Government funds during a period of thirty-five years without the error of a single cent.

Employes in banking and other business institutions take justifiable pride in having their work as near perfect as possible. The workmen in the greatest institution upon the face of the

earth, the church of Christ, should be even more careful that their part of the work is well done; applying Jas. 1:25: "Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

"SHOW HIM YOUR HANDS."

An orphan girl of the tenements, who had taken the place of mother for the other children, by scrubbing, washing, cooking, mending, until her slender shoulders bent and her body was stricken with disease, was finally told she must die.

"I haven't been able to do anything," she said to her favorite girl friend from around the corner. "I couldn't go to school or Sunday school because of the work and because it took all papa could spare to keep the others in clothes. The minister said I'd soon see Jesus, but I'm afraid I haven't done anything good, and I don't know what to say to him."

"You needn't try," said the other encouragingly, kissing the pale face, "not a single word. When you see him look at you just show him your hands."

LONG-DISTANCE PUMPING.

Crude oil can be pumped a distance of over thirty miles through large pipes rifled on the inside, providing the oil is mixed with ten per cent. of water, says *Ambition.* The liquids whirl rapidly in passing through the pipes. The water, being heavier than the oil, seeks the outside and forms a thin film that lubricates the pipe for the passage of the oil, the two coming out entirely separate at the end of the line.

The familiar saying, "You can't mix oil and water," is sometimes quoted in justification for one refusing to work with another because of differences of conviction or opinion. Nevertheless, there are circumstances under which persons who are radically different may work side by side in a good cause, with-

out either surrendering to the other, then part and go their ways in peace when the work is done.

CLOTH FROM NETTLES.

What was for many generations regarded as a useless, annoying weed, says the New York *Sunday World Magazine,* is now utilized extensively. A German company has a patent for making cloth out of nettle fiber, and an English syndicate paid $75,000 for the right to also manufacture the same. The nettle is to-day used in various other ways—food for swine and cattle, while poultry and horses relish the seed. Fine lace and strong ropes are made from the Siberian nettle. The roots, boiled in alum, yield a yellow dye. The juice of the stalk and leaves color woolen stuffs a brilliant green.

Call no boy or girl, man or woman, depraved. Some may appear useless and annoying, but every natural inclination of the human heart may be turned to some good account. It is simply a matter of patiently persevering in the effort to discover the method by which it may be done.

MOUNTAIN LOOKOUTS.

The National Forest Service of the United States has established lookout stations on high mountain-peaks of the West, equipped with binocular telescopes, for the prompt discovery of forest fires, that, if possible, they may be checked before gaining much headway. By the aid of instruments for locating fires, the man in charge is enabled to telephone valuable information to the supervisor's office. Another part of the work of the service is the replanting of thousands of acres of timber which have been fire-swept. As it requires many years to produce what wildfire can destroy in a few hours or days, the work of conservation is considered by far the most important.

"Sowing wild oats" is to the young man what the wildfire is to the forest, requiring many years to overcome the loss sus-

tained. Common-sense living is to the youth what conservation is to the timber industry of our country. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

A PICTURE OF CHRIST.

It is said that P. A. B. Widener, of Philadelphia, paid to Benjamin and Joseph Duveen nearly $700,000 for a small painting of the infant Jesus and his mother, painted by Raphael at Florence in 1505, when he was only twenty-two years old. It is but twenty-four by seventeen inches.

It is not the privilege of many to own high-priced pictures of the Saviour, or to be able to paint as did Raphael, but it is the wonderful privilege of every human being of the millions of earth, from the humblest, poorest, lowliest, to the highest and mightiest, to have a priceless treasure, and that is to possess Christ himself; to do something far more commendable than to paint a picture of him on canvas, and that is to "show him forth" in word and deed.

As this picture was very small, but had great value, so may it be with a good deed done in His name.

WHAT KILLED THEM?

When the old Tabawl Inn at Southwark was torn down after standing for centuries, there was found in the loft a mummified cat and two rats. One she had in her jaws, the other was held down by her foot. The London *Daily Express,* in reporting the mystery, said: "How death came is not known, but it was in such a form that cat and rats alike were mummified. For centuries the group stood in the same position under the rafters, hidden from sight. The passage of time made no difference in their state. The cat and her victims are now in a glass case in the offices of Mr. W. LeMay, in Southwark."

Whatever the cause of the mystery, the group shows that the cat had performed a wonderful act—and then stopped. It

might appropriately represent persons who, having accomplished some commendable purpose in life, cease from further effort, resting upon past achievements. Don't be content to be a mummified "has been." Be a live "now is."

POWER OF A NOBLE PURPOSE.

One of the greatest universities in the world—Leland Stanford, Jr., University, at Palo Alto, California—was founded in memory of the one whose name it bears, because many times in the days of youth he had expressed the desire that, when he grew up, he might do something toward giving an education to boys who could not afford to go away to college. When he died, his grief-stricken parents, with almost boundless wealth at their disposal, found consolation in carrying out the noble desire of their son. They established the university, endowing it with millions of dollars, where thousands of boys have been given the opportunity wished for them by Leland Stanford, Jr.

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding, for the gaining of it is better than the gaining of silver, and the profit thereof than fine gold" (Prov. 3:13, 14).

SLUMMING PARTIES.

It's all very well to be rich and clean and to eat wholesome food, then wonder what makes the poor so ignorant, but for my part I wish some one would endow a settlement house out on Riverside Drive, and put a few of the slum families up there to do a little missionary work in the neighborhood. Why, there's more charity, more kindness, sweet temper, patience and self-sacrifice to be found in one hour among what the idle rich call the slums than you could find in ten years on Fifth Avenue. I've seen a widow with five children living in two rooms, and supporting them by her own bitter, hard work, half sick, half starved and half lame though she was, take a woman and her dying husband and four little bits of hungry children into her

own two rooms, and care for them until the man died, and the woman could get work for herself. Nobody in the tenement seemed to think the widow had done anything out of the ordinary, and she didn't. If she hadn't done it, some one else in the tenement would.—*Annie Laurie.*

WHOLE CREW VOLUNTEERED.

During the Spanish-American War of 1898, Admiral Sampson desired one volunteer from each ship in his squadron to act under Hobson in sinking the "Merrimac" in the narrow channel leading to the harbor at Santiago de Cuba. Here the Spanish ships had taken refuge, and he reasoned this would practically insure their capture by the United States forces. "Fighting Bob" Evans, in command of the "Iowa," says in his book, "A Sailor's Log," that when one volunteer from his ship was called for, explaining that it meant almost certain death, every officer and all of the six hundred seamen responded; that when one was finally chosen—a man named Murphy—he was offered as high as $150 for his chance, but promptly refused. The man who made the offer turned away with tears streaming down his cheeks because he was denied the privilege of risking his life for the glory of his country.

A world-wide battle is raging between the forces of right and wrong. Christ, the Commander, is calling for volunteers for service at home and abroad. No volunteer will be denied, whether he can do much or little, for in this fight the weapon is the "sword of the Spirit," given us by our invincible Leader.

YOUTH AND AGE.

When can a person render humanity the best service? Gorham Esterbrook presents an argument in favor of youth, by citing a number of instances: Newton, formulating his law of attraction at twenty-two; Napoleon, made chief officer of the day at twenty-seven; Lafayette, declaring himself the friend of

the American colonies at nineteen; Marconi, developing wireless telegraphy at twenty-four; Adoniram Judson, declining a flattering call from a Boston church at twenty-two, and dedicating himself to missionary work in Burma; David Livingstone, at twenty-one, deciding to devote himself to missionary work. "And so the story runs."

On the other hand, Elbert Hubbard calls attention to John Bigelow, at ninety-four, taking an active interest in political and social problems almost to the day of his death; Bowman, a bishop at ninety-two; John Tenniel, cartoonist at ninety, and, after mentioning many others active in old age, says: "Dozens of men can be named between eighty and ninety who are taking a very practical interest in the world of politics, business and literature."

From all of which it seems that the normal condition is that of service all through life, varying according to experience and opportunity. Paul saw the possibilities of a young life when he wrote to Timothy: "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity." And in Job 11:17 we get this beautiful picture: "Thine age shall be clearer than the noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning."

HIS TICKET IN HIS HAND.

Rev. J. Durham, of Irvington, California, familiarly known as Judge Durham, and one of the most beloved ministers of the Golden State, met death in a train wreck in June, 1914, near Clay, where he had been filling preaching appointments a number of years. Only a few weeks before passing away he dedicated a new church there, which stands as a monument to his memory and to his faithful service. He was seventy-eight years of age.

The wreck occurred soon after he had boarded the train for the homeward trip. He had his ticket in his hand, and as the

conductor was approaching to take it up, the sudden crash came. Making his way to the good man as soon as he could, the conductor found the spirit had flown, and his hands folded across his breast as if in peaceful sleep.

Yes, Judge Durham had faithfully filled the appointments of earth and was ready for the journey home, to the Better Land, holding in his hand the ticket of loving service—of a long, well-spent life. His services at Clay the day before seemed strangely prophetic of the closing of his earthly career. His morning subject was, "The Christian's Epitaph," and in concluding his sermon he quoted from Paul's words to Timothy, "For I am already being offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." In the evening he preached on "The Judgment," saying, as he finished: "My closing words to you are, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

SIN.

WHEN SNAKES WORK.

"As a rule, venomous snakes sleep by day, and wander abroad in the shade of evening to seek food or drink," says a youth's paper.

The venomous beings in human form follow practically the same course. The shades of night find the leaders of evil active in the regions where strong drink flows the most freely.

DANGER OF FAMILIARITY.

When you go from the fresh outdoor air into a crowded room you are keenly conscious of the bad, dead air there. In a few minutes you feel it less, and a little later do not notice it. The lungs become familiar with the poisoned element. So one becomes indifferent to sin, but none the less is hardened by it, and it is working death in all his members.—*F. E. Tower.*

SOAP BLOCKED THE WAY.

One man came to me and said his business was that of selling a kind of soap which was advertised to do remarkable work in taking out grease spots. "It will do all that is claimed for it," said he, "but the truth is, it rots the clothes. If I become a Christian, I must give up my business, and I can't afford to do it." In his case it was soap that kept him out of the kingdom of God.—*Moody.*

THE PETRIFYING STREAM.

Some years ago there was a stream of water in Sicily which came out of sulphur-beds. It would turn to sulphur any living creature over and around which it flowed, says the *Record of Christian Work.* At one time a fish was placed in a little rock basin into which the water fell. It slowly died, then gradually turned to stone. Sin is like that. It falls upon a man, hardening his heart, paralyzing his conscience and despiritualizing his soul.

WHY THE JUDGE APOLOGIZED.

In sentencing a man at Flint, Michigan, convicted of a betrayal charge, the judge said he wished to apologize to the murderers, safe-blowers, robbers and confidence men confined in prison for having to oblige them to endure the presence of the betrayer.

Some crimes are so terrible, and some situations so deplorable, that denunciation fails to express the contempt one feels. Under such circumstances a vivid contrast, as in this instance, is the most effective use of language possible.

REBUKED THE BELL.

After breaking into a small church in Scotland with the intention of committing a theft, a man heard footsteps, and sought to get away by running to the end of the building and grabbing a suspended rope, thinking to climb up and escape. It proved

to be the bell-rope, and his weight rang the bell. This attracted his pursuers, and he was caught, when he spoke thus to the bell: "If it had not been for thy long tongue and empty head, I should not have been in my present predicament." There is a voice in wrong-doing, and its long tongue will not keep quiet. All unaware, the offender pulls the bell which tells against himself and summons vengeance to overtake him.—*C. H. Spurgeon.*

FROM SAVAGE TRIBES.

When the so-called "new" dances of the "turkey-trot" class created so much discussion in pulpit and press, calling forth condemnation from many sources, the New York *Sun,* in the early part of 1913, pointed out that they were not in any sense new, saying:

"These dances are a reversion to the grossest practices of savage man. They are based on the primitive motive of the orgies enjoyed by the aboriginal inhabitants of every uncivilized land. Their movements and steps have been described with exactitude by explorers and missionaries to those peoples we are accustomed to regard as inferior."

WHEN MANY SUFFER.

Judge Donahue, of the Superior Court of Alameda County, California, once said in a public address that he frequently made a personal investigation of cases coming before him. In one instance, where a well-appearing young man had been arrested for embezzlement, he found that thirty-five persons suffered because of the wrong—father, mother, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and other near relatives; that they were grieved to the point of shedding tears—all because one who was dear to them had made one misstep.

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother," the language of Solomon, is in effect the wise admonition of parents to sons the whole world around.

IT WAS SMALL ONCE.

During a severe coughing-spell an Illinois farmer felt something in his throat, and was startled to see a blacksnake fall from his mouth. For two years he had suffered much distress, and a number of physicians were unable to diagnose his case. The man concluded he must have swallowed the reptile when it was very small, while drinking from a brook on his farm.

The little serpent of sin, harbored and hidden for awhile, may seem harmless to the one cherishing it, but, if not killed, it will grow, just as surely as did the little blacksnake, and with its growth will as certainly cause distress and the making of itself known in the life it has polluted.

LIVED AS A WHITE MAN.

After having been married twenty-six years, and posing all this time as a white man, a St. Louis citizen committed suicide when his white wife discovered he had negro blood in his veins. The revelation came to her when he was arrested and tried for fighting with another negro.

"Be sure your sin will find you out," we read in Num. 32:23. This man's sin was not that he had negro blood, but that his *heart* was black. The color of the skin is not the test of the man; it's the color of the soul that tells the story. He who thinks he is deceiving others deceives himself far more, for some day his true character will be revealed.

SNAKE BITE KILLS SCIENTIST.

Dr. Frederick Fox, who devoted his life to the treatment of snake bites, met his death at Calcutta, India, as the result of experimenting with a snake of the deadly krait variety, which causes thirty-five thousand deaths each year in British India. He had permitted the reptile to inflict five punctures in his arm, and, confident of the efficacy of his cure, smilingly incised four of the bites the fifth escaping his notice. Soon symptoms of

poisoning appeared, and his remedy was applied, but, in spite of all that could be done, he died, as had thousands of others into whose flesh the krait had sent its fangs.

Do you know any one who argues in favor of the harmlessness of certain things, if kept under proper restraint? Whose remedy for "bites" that might be inflicted is to have a "chaperon" or a "guardian" around? It may be possible to overcome some of the dangers by such precaution, but the chances are too great that the serpent of sin may so poison the heart that all the "remedies" at hand can not bring the victim back to a life of purity.

FRESH WATER MADE SALT.

Notwithstanding the Dead Sea constantly receives the fresh, sparkling liquid of the river Jordan, it has no outlet, sustains no life, and its shores are usually barren of vegetation. Fish, swimming down from the north, perish when they reach it. The water is six times as salty as the ocean, made so largely by the washing down into its bed of the brine of rains upon the great salt hills stretching along its southwestern shores a distance of seven miles.

He who daily receives the rich blessings given to all of God's creatures, and yet lives near the salt hills of sin, will be so contaminated by their drippings that he can not be a means of strength to others. The good will be overcome by the evil.

DEEP DOWN IN THE EARTH.

Michigan bears the distinction of having the deepest mine in the world—one of the copper mines near Calumet—which is more than a mile beneath the earth's surface and over two miles from the opening. The heat is so intense and the ventilation so poor that the miners are always glad when they start upward toward the pure air and sunlight.

Aside from the mines of the world there are many places where a far more blighting darkness oppresses—the darkness

of sin. Here the heat of passion and temper, and the foul air of profanity, vulgarity, alcohol and nicotine, hold sway. There is something so good in every human heart, however, that joy inexpressible floods the soul returning from darkness to light, from Satan to God, to bask in the pure air of Christ, the Sun of righteousness.

FROM MOUNTAIN TO MUD BED.

The main source of the famous Ganges River is a snow-field embedded between three Himalayan mountains, over twenty-two thousand feet high. It issues, cold and pure, from an ice cave thirteen thousand feet above sea-level. In the first ten miles it drops 350 feet, and as it rushes on it sinks lower and lower, finally becoming the muddy, disease-laden stream where the dead are burned, and where all the surroundings are in sharp contrast with its clean, beautiful birthplace.

The contrast is not more marked, however, than in the lives of young men who willfully go out from pure, wholesome homes with the expressed purpose of "having a good time," as they term it. This of itself is a big drop from their early teachings, but it's only the beginning of a downward course which, with many, ends in surroundings of disease, degradation and disgrace.

SINCERITY.

TO DETECT COUNTERFEIT.

The president of a bank, when asked by a young clerk how he could distinguish the bad bills from the good, said: "Get familiar with the good ones and you will recognize the bad bills at sight." Here is a volume of wisdom summed up in a single sentence. The advice applies not only to the detection of counterfeit money, but with equal force to the detection of the counterfeit in all departments of life. The man accustomed to handling only good corn, wheat and potatoes has no difficulty in detecting the faulty. To the trained musician, accustomed to

high-grade work, a false note comes like a stab of pain. There is only one way to know the bad, the imperfect, the untrue, and that is by knowing the good, the perfect, the true.—*Harry L. Tyler.*

REAL ENJOYMENT.

Long speeches at banquets are often more endured than enjoyed. A noted man was the guest of honor at a dinner in an important city. The mayor presided, and, when coffee was being served, he touched the distinguished guest, saying innocently:

"Shall we let the people enjoy themselves a little longer, or shall we have your speech now?"

"BENEATH A RUGGED BREAST."

Some of the best things of life are appreciated by but few because so many judge by surface indications—by the outward appearance. Clothes do not make the man. "Many a true heart beats beneath a rugged breast."

"It's a diamond in the rough,
But it's a diamond sure enough.
Men must find it and must grind it;
And when it's found and when it's ground,
Until it's burnished bright,
It goes on everlastingly
A-shining out its light."

MACHINE OF MANY NOISES.

Imitation of all sorts of noises is a part of the work of modern theatrical companies, hence, in order to meet this requirement, a machine has been invented very much resembling a piano, electrically operated. It is said it can produce any imaginable sound, such as wind, rain, thunder, fall of dead leaves, sough of the sea, movement of a train, hoof-beats, breakage, etc., not to mention in detail such simple things as bell-ringing.

This fits in consistently with the whole stage idea, for every one knows it is only imitation, from first to last. The better and more realistic the imitation, however, the better the patrons

are satisfied. Then, in real life, where genuineness is expected, the more genuinely human a person may be, in joy or sorrow, in adversity or prosperity, the more commendable his conduct. *Be real. Be genuine.*

SUCCESS.

LIST OF A THOUSAND.

In the report of a juvenile court officer are these words: "I have on my desk a list of one thousand successful men. By 'successful' I do not mean they were money-makers, but men who have given us new conceptions of steam, electricity, construction work, education, art, etc. Two hundred started as farmers' sons, two hundred as messenger boys, two hundred as newsboys, one hundred were printers' apprentices, one hundred apprenticed in manufactories, fifty began at the bottom of railway work, and fifty—*only fifty*—had wealthy parents to give them a start."

THE MAN WHO WINS.

The man who wins is an average man,
Not built on any particular plan.
He's one who never depends on luck—
Just steady and earnest and full of pluck.

So he works and waits, till one fine day
There's a better job with bigger pay.
And the men who shirked whenever they could
Are bossed by the man whose work made good.

—*Exchange.*

BEST KIND OF A "PULL."

"The Erie Railroad has a locomotive weighing 422½ tons, including the tender. It is capable of exerting a drawbar pull of 160,000 pounds," we read, "a feature due mainly to the fact that a full set of drivers is placed under the tender, and the weight of the tender is thus utilized for increasing the traction power."

This is the kind of "pull" young men should strive for—that

of utilizing every pound of energy they possess for increasing their power—their ability to do things. This done, success is sure.

VICTORY THROUGH DEFEAT.

The teacher of a country school in New York, who had given good satisfaction the first term, says the *Sunday School Times*, was defeated for re-election by the influence of an enemy upon the directors. It was a severe blow to him. A State normal school in Pennsylvania, hearing he had no engagement for the coming year, made him a proposition which he accepted, and which proved a stepping-stone to a professorship in the institution, which position he held a quarter of a century.

The danger to most young men is not that they may be thwarted in their efforts by others so much as that they may fail to prove worthy of the success they desire.

"SWITCH-ENGINES" OF HUMANITY.

Charles Reynolds, dean of Yale Divinity School, speaking to members of the graduating class of the University of Kansas, indulged in the following: "Most of us are switch-engines, puffing within the narrow limits of the yards. It is given to few to pull the overland limited. For most of us, life is full of daily drudgery and commonplace routine."

One is led to infer that the speaker regretted there were not more men of the higher sort developed in educational institutions. But why such regret? It should be recalled that but for the switch-engine the overland limited would not be "made up." The humble laborer fills his place with as much benefit to the great mass as the most polished educator or the ablest statesman. The street-sweeper contributes as much to the health of the community as its greatest physician. "Act well your part, for there all honor lies," is as inspired an utterance as was ever written for the guidance of humanity.—*Oakland Tribune.*

SYMPATHY.

WHAT HURT LINCOLN.

The martyred war President's capacity for suffering was marvelous. "I have not suffered by the South," he said; "I have suffered with the South." Throughout the torn nation during those trying days none felt the anguish of it so much as he who bore the burden of it all.

TO HELP INSTEAD OF PAINT.

Many years ago a young artist painted the picture of a forlorn woman with a child, out in the storm. This picture took such hold on him that he laid by the brush, saying: "I must go out to the lost instead of painting them." He prepared for the ministry, and for some time worked in the city's slums. At length he said: "I must go to that part of the world where men seem most hopelessly lost." That young artist was none other than Bishop Tucker, of Uganda, Africa.—*Record of Christian Work.*

THE BELL IN THE BALL.

The London *News* tells of a blind man who became quite proficient as a cricket-player, even to the making of a catch. A special ball was used, with a bell inside, indicating its course to the highly trained ear of the sightless man.

Persons who suffer because of some misfortune or hardship often hear the bell of human appeal ringing in their souls, directing them to a course of action indicative of a sympathetic sensitiveness far superior to those who are not thus deprived.

WHEN THE STARS SHINE.

A father into whose family death had come was so moved by the kindness manifested toward him that he feelingly remarked:

"It makes me ashamed of myself that I have so undervalued the goodwill of those about me, and that I have failed myself

so often in showing sympathy and kindness to neighbors and friends in their times of sorrow. I have never dreamed there was so much love in people's hearts as has been shown us in our bereavement, even by mere acquaintances."

When it is darkest the stars shine brightest.

THAWING FROZEN GROUND.

Mining in Alaska is hindered because of the ground freezing during the long, severe winters. One method of combating this is to drive pipes into the ground, through which steam is forced under strong pressure. In this way the ground is thawed so it can be worked, and the rich ore taken out.

The gold in human life is often not discovered because the hearts of the people are so cold. They are frozen, and insensible to the needs of unfortunate ones all around them. When sorrow or misfortune overtakes the hitherto indifferent, and a feeling of fellow-sympathy is aroused, the "steam" of love thaws out the cold, hardened heart, and the real gold of the better nature yields itself to the good of humankind.

MADE HAPPY BY PRESIDENT.

Stricken with paralysis, his life slowly ebbing away, a twelve-year-old Pennsylvania boy expressed a desire to see the President of the United States. This was in March, 1914. The lad's mother communicated with the chief executive, who gladly consented to having the youth brought to the White House. He was carried into the Blue Room on a stretcher, and President Wilson dropped all other matters for a chat of several minutes with him, during which he affectionately held his hand. The child was very happy, inquiring about Mrs. Wilson, and left some flowers for her.

True greatness of character is never more surely indicated than in the bearing of the strong toward the weak. The Christ-spirit is given in the words of the Master: "Suffer little children

to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

A BELL FROM THE DEEP.

On the night of October 9, 1799, the British frigate "Lutine" was sunk in a terrible storm off the Dutch coast, with a cargo of bars of gold and silver valued at $6,000,000. In one of the several attempts since made to recover the treasure, the bell of the ship was found and brought up. It was taken to an office in London, where is posted the news of shipwrecks. When such a disaster is reported this bell from the long-lost frigate is rung.

One may imagine that its clear tones speak tenderly, as it knowing from experience what it means to go down at sea, and to lose treasures. Ever in our times of sorrow or loss, the most helpful sympathy comes from those who have suffered as we.

THE BOY WAS LONESOME.

On a New York street-car was a little orphan boy, going from the home of "Aunt Bessy" to that of "Aunt Clara," in Brooklyn, says the Indianapolis *Star*. His shoes were muddy, and while snuggling up close to the woman to his left he unintentionally soiled the dress of the woman in gray, to his right. Presuming that the lad belonged to the other, she made a remark to that effect, kindly requesting that he keep his shoes away from her. When the truth was learned she felt a lump in her throat, and said:

"You are a very little boy to be knocked about this way."

"Oh, I don't mind," he said. "I never get lost; but I get lonesome sometimes on the long trips. This morning I was playing I belonged to this other lady, and was scrooging up close, like I was her little boy. I forgot all about my feet. That's how I got your dress dirty. I'm awfully sorry. I hope it will brush off."

The woman put her arm around the tiny chap and "scrooged"

him up so close that she hurt him, "and every other woman who heard the artless confidence glared at her green-eyed, and looked as if she would not only let him wipe his shoes on her very best dress, but would feel like spanking him if he didn't."

FOR HIS MOTHER'S SAKE.

The *Christian Leader* tells of the son of a florist who had saved a beautiful, half-opened rose to place on his mother's grave, and who soon after saw a ragged little fellow near by pick up a withered rose, whose leaves fell to the ground with the slightest movement. The lad's lips quivered as the florist's boy stepped up and asked what he wanted to do with the flower.

"Mother's sick, and can't eat nothin', and I thought maybe a flower to smell might make her feel better," was the reply.

"Just you wait a minute," said the other, and he brought out his own beautiful rose which he had intended for his mother's grave.

As the ragged urchin sped happily away, the other turned back to his work as he said to himself:

"Mother will understand, and I know this will please her better."

THE PRESIDENT WAITED.

In May, 1863, while the beloved Lincoln was visiting a camp hospital, he stopped at the bedside of a sixteen-year-old Vermont boy who was fatally wounded, says Mrs. Pickett in the *Christian Herald,* when the youth asked if he would write a letter for him to his mother. "That I will," was the prompt response. As the boy dictated, the President proceeded. It was a long letter, but he manifested no weariness. When it was finished and the great man arose to go, the boy looked up to him pleadingly, as he asked: "Won't you stay with me? I do want to hold your hand." Mr. Lincoln quickly perceived the lad's meaning, sat down by his side and gently clasped his thin hand. For two hours he sat there patiently, as though he had

been the boy's father. When the end came, he bent over and tenderly folded this one with the other on the young soldier's breast, and left the hospital in tears.

TACT.

TO MAKE LIGHTING EASIER.

In order to minimize the terrific jar with which an aeroplane sometimes strikes the ground, a shock-absorber has been invented.

Here is another kind of shock-absorber: "A soft answer turneth away wrath."

WELL SUPPLIED.

An impecunious lover accompanied his fiancee to a bazar, and when they came to a booth where a lot of charms were on sale, she exclaimed with delight:

"Oh, Charles, buy me a charm!"

"Mabel," he answered admiringly, "you have too many already."

THE RIGHT BAIT.

Christ said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Now, remember that anybody who catches fish must cut the bait the *fish* like, not what *they* like. The most of us have been fishing with the bait we like best. It won't do. If the fish won't bite at what we have, we must get something that they will bite. —*Francis Murphy.*

VENTILATING TUNNELS.

The old way of ventilating underground railways in cities was to draw out the foul air with exhaust fans. The new and better way is to pump in fresh air, thus forcing the foul out.

The person who says to those engaged in wrong-doing, "Don't do this, that and the other," is using the old method of driving the foul things out of wicked lives. The one who induces them

to take up duties which engage their time and attention along pure lines, is using the new and better method.

TELLING MOTHER.

Break bad news gently. The Chicago *Record-Herald* tells of a boy who went home one day so dirty and bruised that his mother hardly knew him, and explained that his predicament was due to his efforts to "keep a little boy from getting licked."

"Well, that was fine," said the mollified parent. "I'm proud of you, Harold. And who was that little boy?"

"Me," was the reply, with a sad smile.

WHAT A MATCH WILL DO.

After kicking, cuffing and beating had failed to loosen the hold of a bulldog on a boy's pet dog, a man stepped up and held a lighted match to the nose of the ferocious animal, thus causing it to let go and turn away sneezing, saving the life of the other. A pinch of snuff, of course, would have had the same effect.

There is much in knowing the right thing to do at the right time. Frequently a mild act, small in itself, will succeed where more strenuous efforts fail.

A TIME FOR ALL THINGS.

The *Strand Magazine* once published some reminiscences of a court photographer, who said that royalty almost invariably demands that pictures for the public must show the noted ones either serious, stern, forbidding or commanding, on the theory that the impressions from such tend to beget a respect for those in authority which would be lacking in pictures showing a lighter vein.

The supposed advantages of dignity are recognized by others than royal personages. It is well known that beggars are adepts at posings while soliciting alms. A man wearing a sign, "Blind and Deaf," was being led about by a happy-hearted youth, who broke forth joyously whistling a popular song which was being

ground out by an organ-player in the same block, when the man reprimanded him severely for such levity, sternly asking: "Do you want people to think we're *happy?*"

Eccl. 3:1: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."

BY ANOTHER'S WATCH.

Dr. Henry Van Dyke some years ago appeared before the Congressional Committee on Patents in Washington, when a long list of speakers were waiting. Thomas Nelson Page, who had been granted ten minutes, talked half an hour. It was then Dr. Van Dyke's turn.

"How much time do you need, Doctor?" inquired the chairman.

"Ten minutes—by Mr. Page's watch," was the ready reply, and amid the merriment that followed he was invited to talk as long as he desired.—*Lippincott's Magazine.*

QUICK WIT OF A CHILD.

The King of Prussia was once addressing some schoolchildren, when he held up an orange and asked: "To what kingdom does this belong?" Receiving the correct answer, he held up a coin with the same question, which was also answered correctly. "To what kingdom do I belong, then?" he queried of one of the girls. The child blushed. She did not like to say, "The animal kingdom," lest the royal visitor might be offended. There flashed to her mind the thought, "God made man in his own image," and, looking up brightly, she said: "To the kingdom of God."—*E. W. Thornton.*

SMOOTH TOPS FOR HAT-HOOKS.

In a large establishment in Chicago complaints were made that the ordinary wire hat-racks in use broke and cut the hats placed on them. To remedy this the manager bought a thousand tops, such as are sold to schoolboys for a penny each, and placed

them on the ends of the wire holders. The smooth, rounded surface prevented further damage to headgear.

There are sharp, cutting incidents coming up nearly every day in our experiences, which may be made harmless by kindly tact, leaving no regrets to mar the happiness of those concerned. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a network of silver."

WHY HE HURRIED.

This is such a hurry age that perhaps the policeman in the following story, from "Hapgood's Opportunities," was justified in his conclusion:

A man with long, bushy hair was approached on the street by a boy who asked him the time. "Ten minutes to nine," he replied, looking at his watch with an important air. "Well, at nine o'clock get your hair cut," said the boy, taking to his heels, the man chasing him, nearly knocking down a policeman as he turned the next corner.

"What's up?" asked the officer, halting him. The man, much out of breath, replied excitedly:

"See that urchin running? Well, he asked me the time, and when I told him it was ten minutes to nine, he said to get my hair cut at nine o'clock! Whew!"

"Well," returned the policeman, soothingly, "you needn't be in such a hurry. You have eight minutes yet."

SCIENTIFIC BURGLARY.

A gang of thieves, who blew open the safe of a post-office in a Pennsylvania town, timed their blasts to the explosion of a dynamite charge in a stone quarry near by. The postmaster heard it, but did not discover the robbery until the next morning, as he, in common with others, supposed the noise was caused by the quarry blast.

Satan is very tactful. His agents often time their "blasts" for the injury of others in such a manner as to ward off the

suspicion of their actions. By making it appear that some one else is to blame, they rejoice not a little in their scientific handling of "tongue dynamite."

TALENTS.

MAKING HAIR-SPRINGS.

It is said the manufacturer who can take a piece of iron and transform it into a giant boiler could also make it into hair-springs worth thirteen times their weight in gold.

You may feel you haven't many talents, but if you use them to the best of your ability you may increase your influence a hundred-fold. As the tiny hair-spring is necessary before the watch can keep time, so you may find scores of persons simply waiting for the little hair-spring of encouragement you can give.

WONDERFUL VIOLIN.

The famous violin, "Emperor Stradivarius," which is two hundred years old, and once belonged to the collection of the late George Haddock, is valued at $50,000. And yet it contains but fifteen ounces of wood and varnish.

As fifteen ounces of wood may make a violin worth $50,000, or a few boxes of toothpicks worth less than a dollar, so may the talents God has given you be either wasted or made of priceless value in helping the world along.

NOVEL INSURANCE.

Noted dancers insure their feet, pianists their fingers and singers their voices. "Paderewski's fingers are reported to be insured for close upon $100,000, payable in the event of total incapacity," says a London paper. "When an injury to the first finger of his right hand prevented his playing in Philadelphia, he received $5,000 under the terms of his policy. Caruso's voice is insured for $150,000, and Mlle. Friel, a French actress, has insured her eyes for $25,000."

If the eyes, the feet, the hands and the voice are of great value to some in money-making, every one blessed with such possessions should value them above price because of their joy-producing powers—the eyes to see human needs; the feet to go on errands of love and mercy; the hands to carry and lift up, and the voice to cheer the songless on every hand.

TEMPERANCE.

BEER AND SUICIDES.

Milwaukee is known as the "beer city." According to the papers, there are more suicides in that city, in proportion to population, than any other in America. Is this simply a coincidence, or is there a relation between beer and despair?

THE KEY TO THE CEMETERY.

In a certain town is a cemetery close beside which stands a saloon. The gate was kept locked, but a sign on the corner of the saloon read: "The key to the cemetery within." There is more truth in that sign than one would realize upon first reading it.—*W. G. Partridge.*

WHAT A JUG DID.

"Why is my house so shabby and old,
At every crevice letting in cold?
Why are my eyes so swollen and red?
Whence is this dreadful pain in my head?
Why is my wife broken-hearted and sad?
Why is it *my* children never are glad?"
Go, ask your jug!

—*Ram's Horn.*

WHERE DRINKERS FAILED.

In the sixty-two-mile walking-match at Kiel, Germany, in 1908, total abstainers won the first, second, third, fourth, eighth and ninth places. Moderate drinkers won the others up to the tenth. Of all who entered, 29 per cent. were total abstainers, and they furnished 60 per cent. of the ten prize-winners.

STRENGTH IN CLEAN LIVING.

Walter Johnson pitched fifty-six consecutive innings without giving the opposing teams a single run, and has won sixteen consecutive games. Clark Griffith, manager of the Washington baseball team, says that this famous pitcher neither drinks, smokes, chews nor swears. He lives a clean, thoroughly controlled life in order to pitch a clean, thoroughly controlled ball. —*E. W. Thornton, in The Lookout,* 1914.

THE SERPENT'S MISTAKE.

A Kentucky farmer found a door-knob in the stomach of a snake he had killed. It is supposed the reptile thought it was swallowing an egg.

The man who puts liquor into his stomach, thinking he is taking into his system something helpful, makes a worse mistake than did the snake. So far as known, door-knobs would never rob a man of reason, nor cause him to strike wife or children.

IMPARTIAL TESTIMONY.

Insurance men make accurate calculations about what they call "life chances." These are based on reliable statistics. They say that if a young man at twenty is and remains a total abstainer, he has prospect of life thirteen years more than the young man of the same age who drinks moderately. It would be a great pity to barter thirteen years of life for such a pittance as an occasional drink. Over the young man who drinks heavily, the total abstainer's advantage is twenty-nine years.—*Helen A. Hawley.*

ORDAINING A SALOON-KEEPER.

When the fee is paid and the man receives his license, he is practically ordained as follows:

"Take thou authority to tempt men; to rob them of their money and reason; to stain our streets with blood; to fill our

jails and increase our taxes; to destroy our sons and defy the commands of Heaven. And when you are called to account in the day of judgment, *present this license,* and say that we, the authorities, who have been elected by Christian people, authorized you to *sell rum."—The Palm-tree.*

FILIPINO BOLO MERCHANTS.

In a city in the Philippines are three men who do a thriving business, carrying nothing in stock but deadly weapons, the "bolo" knife being the one upon which they rely most for their trade.

Tens of thousands of men have done a thriving business in the United States, not by dealing out long, sharp knives, but by pouring out bright, sparkling liquors, annually slaying over one hundred thousand husbands, sons and brothers—more, perhaps, than have been killed in a whole century by the Filipinos with their bolos.

A TRAGEDY.

Into a window a moth quickly flew,
By a flickering light decoyed.
Never again could it fly as before—
It lived, but its wings were destroyed.

The wine-cup so bright is a trap of the worst,
So keep far away, my dear boy;
Or else, like the moth, you'll be sorry too late—
It fascinates but to destroy.

—A. H. Hutchinson.

BOOTBLACK'S STRANGE CUSTOMER.

In London a boy was engaged to call at a certain tailor-shop once a week to shine the shoes of the "dummy" upon which the proprietor exhibited his latest fashion creations. During the process it was necessary for a clerk to hold the dummy in order to keep it in an upright position.

This seems odd, but not half so much so as that men with ability to think and reason often need holding while receiving a shine, or being led home under the influence of liquor. A man

in such a condition suffers by comparison with a neatly attired dummy.

FROM BREWERY TO SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.

When State-wide prohibition was carried in one of the Southern commonwealths, a brewing company, which had been in business fifty years, made alterations in its $1,000,000 plant, changing it to a slaughter-house for the purpose of going into the packing business.

Like all establishments of its kind, it had been engaged in another kind of slaughter business before making the change—the slaughter of manhood and womanhood; the killing of noble purposes in many a breast; the slaying of women and children at the hands of men who had promised to protect them; the destruction of happiness in tens of thousands of homes.

THEY MEANT WELL.

While starting a gasoline-light plant in a store at Dilworth, Minnesota, a man's clothing caught fire, and some friends, mistaking wood alcohol for water, dashed it on him. Of course they meant well, but their action only increased his danger, and he ran into the street, ablaze from head to foot. His life was finally saved by several men rolling him in a snowbank.

Well-meaning doctors, prescribing liquor for patients who are fighting to conquer the drink habit, are throwing alcohol on the fires of appetite, which can be quenched only by a roll in the snowbank of absolute and unconditional total abstinence.

DIABOLICAL SUGGESTION.

The following is an extract from the speech of one of the officers of the Ohio State Liquor League:

"It will appear from these facts, gentlemen, that the success of our business is dependent largely upon the creation of appetites. The open field is among the boys. After men are grown and their habits formed, they rarely change in this regard. It

will be needful, therefore, that missionary work be done among the boys, and I make the suggestion, gentlemen, that nickels expended in treats to the boys now will return in dollars to your tills after the appetites have been formed. Above all things, create appetites."

BOTH DANGEROUS.

In one of our large cities a strike was on, and the peace of the city was threatened. The mayor, who was not a temperance advocate, gave strict orders to the police that they should guard the armory—and the saloons. Why these, rather than the shoe-stores and restaurants? Well, the armory was stacked with firearms and ammunition. Fancy for a moment what would happen if the men whose passions were already inflamed should come in contact with the contents of the armory! The mayor and the whole city officiary that supported him had tacitly acknowledged that the same thing was to be feared if the mob came in contact with the things kept in the saloon.—*Mattie M. Boteler.*

STRONG MEN OF CHILDISH FEARS.

A number of the great men of history had peculiar fears. *Tit-Bits* says that Julius Cæsar was afraid of thunder—and yet the sounds and sights of the most bloody battlefields had no terrors for him. Peter the Great, Emperor of Russia, was loath to look at rivers, and, if compelled to cross a bridge, sat in a closed carriage, bathed in perspiration. Lord Roberts was afraid of cats, and could not rest nor enjoy food in a house where a feline was permitted. Henry III. of France so disliked cats that he was known to faint at sight of one. Two other great generals, Marshal Saxe and the Duke of Schomberg, also held them in terror—and yet these men were brave where gleamed the sword in battle array.

Foolish and trivial as these fears appear, they are on a level with the fear of robust men who haven't the courage to say

"No" when a fair maiden offers them wine, or to turn the glass down at a social function where others are partaking of the sparkling liquid.

HIS MOTHER'S INFLUENCE.

Jack went with his father to a great banquet of business men, in a strange city, because it would not do to leave him at the hotel alone. When all were seated the waiters came with the wines to fill the glasses. The boy was dismayed. His father was busy talking with the man on the other side. Remembering the teachings of his mother as to the ruin liquor brings upon those who use it, he hastily turned down his glass and also his father's, remarking to the waiter in a clear voice that reached every ear near him, *"Father and I don't drink."* A smile of approval went around, and every man at that end of the table turned down his glass, because little Jack had the courage of his convictions.—*Exchange.*

THOUGHT OF HIS OWN BABY.

A drummer, riding in a smoking-car where several of his companions were passing a bottle, declined, much to their surprise, relates the *Ram's Horn.* "I've quit drinking, boys," he said. "I'll tell you how it was. Yesterday I was in Chicago, calling on a customer who keeps a pawnshop in connection with his other business. While there, a young man not more than twenty-five came in with a package in his hand. He unwrapped a pair of little baby shoes and offered them for ten cents, saying, 'I want a drink.' When urged to take them back home to his baby, the pawnbroker remarking that she would surely need them, the poor young fellow bowed his head on the showcase and cried like a child, as he sobbed out the story: 'No, she won't; she died last night.' You may laugh if you please, men; but I have a baby at home, and I swear I'll never drink another drop."

JACK LONDON'S OPINION.

In former years many persons professed to believe that intoxicating liquors could be used to advantage, particularly in stimulating persons for some extra effort or special mental work. Soon after the appearance of Jack London's book, "John Barleycorn," in which he takes the stand that liquor is not helpful in any way, Dr. Purdue, State geologist of Tennessee, wrote to Mr. London, asking him if it was not true that he had used liquor as a stimulant to advantage in his literary work. To this Jack London replied:

"No; please believe me, whatever I have accomplished in this world has been in spite of it. John Barleycorn has never helped me to do anything. This is straight and flat and right out from the shoulder."

CHECKING SHIFTING SAND-DUNES.

For many years great stretches of the New England coast were encroached upon by the slow-shifting sand-dunes, smothering large quantities of vegetation. As far back as 1895 a systematic fight was begun by planting large numbers of shrubs and grasses that would grow in the sand and hold it in check. Instead of a wide expanse of waste lands are now slopes of almost solid green, where the plucky bayberry, the mountain cranberry and the beach grasses grow—a scene of beauty in place of the desert hue of other days.

During many decades the blight of the liquor business swept over all portions of the United States, impoverishing communities, making criminals, blighting child growth and development, and smothering happiness in the home. Finally the noble women of the W. C. T. U. banded together to check the devastation by securing scientific temperance instruction in the public schools. The good seed took root, and the sand-dunes of waste, poverty and sorrow are giving way to the green slopes of industry, plenty and happiness.

FIRE IN A TUNNEL.

Because a tramp cooked a meal over a fire too near one of the entrances, close to a lot of dry grass, one of the long railroad tunnels in the West was closed to traffic fifty-one days, and damage amounting to nearly $100,000 was done. Every known means of fighting the fire was tried, but without avail, owing to the headway gained in destroying the timbers supporting the roof, so it was decided to let it burn itself out.

Every year a hundred thousand or more citizens of the United States give up trying to quench the fires of appetite for intoxicating liquors—in many instances after every known remedy has been tried—which finally burn themselves out, leaving a half-million families to mourn over the havoc thus wrought.

NO PLACE FOR DRINKERS.

Mr. Bostock, the famous trainer of lions and other beasts, says that whoever goes into the business of taming animals must neither smoke nor drink, because one of the necessary qualifications for success is absolute steadiness of nerve. The quivering of an eyelid, the least evidence of being startled, means danger or death. No man addicted to alcohol or tobacco can be sure of his nerves under such circumstances.

Very few people intend to make the training of animals their work in life, but many thousands hope to be trainers of men—superintendent, foreman or boss—and to them steadiness of nerve and complete self-control are just as necessary as they are to a trainer in a cage of lions.—*J. Mervin Hull.*

BENEFITS NONE.

A temperance lecturer, going about the country, it is said, was in the habit of taking out and holding his gold watch in his hand, offering it to any one in the audience who would stand up and name one class of people who had ever been benefited by the saloon. One day in Iowa a gentleman got up and with

confidence named the undertakers. The speaker was about to unchain his watch and hand it over, when an old man arose and said:

"Hold on! Before you give away that watch allow me to say that I have been the undertaker in this community for thirty-five years, and have buried a great many of that kind of people; but whenever I am called on to lay away a drunkard, or any member of his family, I always know it's a charity job. I would be $35,000 better off to-day if I had never been asked to bury one such case."

HOW THE LAWYER WAS CURED.

Having been a moderate drinker for a number of years, patronizing a certain saloon-keeper, an Indiana lawyer was filled with rage when he learned that the man had employed another attorney to draw up an abstract and deed for him in the purchase of a piece of property. He went to the saloon proprietor and, leaning over the bar, demanded an explanation, saying: "I've bought my drinks here for years and have spent hundreds of dollars in your place. Then, the very minute you have legal work to be done you go and employ some one else."

Without the slightest hesitation the liquor-dealer replied:

"When I have business for a lawyer I want it done by a sober one—see?"

The offended man turned and walked away. The answer to his question startled him. His friends say he at once became a total abstainer and remained so for life.

CLEAN LIVING AND QUICK THINKING.

Connie Mack, manager of the famous Athletics baseball team of Philadelphia, in a published interview in 1914, laid great stress on "clean living and quick thinking," as important factors in the make-up of a successful player; "and without the one you can't have the other—the quick thinking," he says. He de-

mands men of pluck, daring, endurance, self-command and quick judgment. "All of the umpires together haven't put as many ball-players out of the game as Old Man Booze," he declares. "If you estimate a player's years at fifteen, why, moderate drinking will cut off from three to five years. . . . Five years ago I would take a man who drank, provided I thought I could handle him, and gradually break him of the habit. Now I wouldn't bother with a youngster who drinks. That's my fixed policy." It was said that not a man on his team that year had ever known the taste of liquor.

IN TWO HOMES.

He swung on the gate and looked down the street,
Awaiting the sound of familiar feet,
Then suddenly came to the sweet child's eyes
The marvelous glory of morning skies,
For a manly form with a steady stride
Drew near to the gate that opened wide,
As the boy sprang forward and joyously cried,
"Papa's coming!"

The wasted face of a little child
Looked out of the window with eyes made wild
By the ghostly shades in failing light,
And the glimpse of a drunken man in the night,
Cursing and reeling from side to side;
The poor boy, trembling and trying to hide,
Clung to his mother's skirts and cried,
"Papa's coming!"

—*Selected.*

TEMPTATION.

TO AVOID RAILROAD WRECKS.

Among the odd inventions seen in the Patent Office at Washington, D. C., is one in the shape of a collision-proof train. It carries trucks in front and behind, with rails running over the roofs of the cars, so that one train, overtaking or meeting another, would run over the top, instead of colliding with it.

If you can't avoid evil, don't let it crush or hinder you. Pass over it and go on your way.

WHOM SATAN SEEKS.

In a class meeting a colored man once said: "Brethren, when I was a boy I took a hatchet and went into the woods. When I found a tree dat was straight and solid I didn't touch it; but when I found one leaning a little and hollow on the inside, I soon had him down. So when the debbil goes after Christians, he don't touch dem dat stand straight and true, but jest dem dat lean a little and is hollow inside."—*Boys' Teacher.*

SUCTION BETWEEN SHIPS.

An authority, writing of the remarkable suction power between ships going in opposite directions, says: "There is usually less danger when they are both traveling at high speed."

One man, who had signed a total-abstinence pledge, made it a rule to walk rapidly when passing a saloon, not daring to trust himself to even look toward the place. Another found that when he walked on the side of the street where he was compelled to pass a saloon his feet seemed almost to turn toward it, so he formed the habit of always going on the other side.

The safest thing for any one compelled to pass near places of temptation is to "travel at a high speed." In this way, the suction—the power of the temptation—will be more easily overcome.

KILLED WHILE PLAYING.

The five-year-old son of a West Virginia miner found a dynamite cap while playing, and bit it, causing it to explode, blowing the child's head to pieces.

The play of life is full of danger. Dynamite caps of selfishness, passion and unworthy ambition beset us on every hand. When the subject of amusements is discussed, we often hear the question: "Is there any harm in it?" Be careful at this point. "Be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to

kill the soul; but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

WHEN TEMPTATION IS DANGEROUS.

A lad of seventeen had been sent to a saloon to take the measures for a new counter. It was a cold day, and the saloon-keeper mixed a hot drink, offering it to him. He declined. "It must have been a big temptation," said a friend to whom he related the incident. "Well," replied the lad, frankly, "you see it takes two to make a temptation. There's no saloon-keeper and no cold weather can make me take a drink when I don't want to. The temptation I'm afraid of is the one that I'm ready for before it comes, by hankering after it."—*Mrs. George H. Miller.*

DECEIVING DUCKS.

When a Chinese fowler wants to catch ducks he lets float out two or three large hollow gourds. The ducks are at first afraid, but soon lose their timidity. Then the fowler wades out among them, having over his head a gourd with holes through which to see and breathe, and thus approaches a duck, draws it under the water and fastens it to his girdle, and so on, until his girdle is full. Many to-day are decoyed by the selfish fascinations of evil company, questionable amusements and the wine-cup, and fastened to the girdle of the enemy.—*Louis Albert Banks.*

THE LURE OF THE LIGHTS.

In some of the vine and fruit growing districts of France and Germany, insect pests often menace the harvest. To prevent this, acetylene lamps, properly placed and lighted, attract the insects by thousands. As they fly into the bare flame their wings are singed and they fall into circular troughs, filled with water and covered with a film of petroleum, which kills them.

The bright lights of evil resorts have attracted untold thousands of young men to the haunts of vice, thus leading to their downfall, and often to death.

MINNOW FOR BAIT ALL DAY.

Among patents of interest to fishermen is a novel device for using a single live minnow for bait all day. It is magnified by being placed in a strong, clear glass tube containing water, and to which are attached clusters of hooks and a loop wire. The tube becomes invisible when submerged, and because of this bass and other fish are easily caught.

Satan follows the same tactics. His bait of promised pleasures, used over and over again, is magnified by beautiful surroundings, thus often deceiving unsuspecting young people. His hooks are not conspicuous, but they are there, just the same.

THOROUGHNESS.

WHY HE SUCCEEDED.

Returning to the place of her childhood, a lady passed a fine old house, and, observing the name upon the door, inquired, "Who is Dr. Walker?" She was told that as a boy he lived in a little house near her father's farm, then she readily recalled him; remembered that he picked berries for them and did other work. "Yes," she commented thoughtfully, "father said the berries he picked never had to be gone over a second time; that he did his work well and never wasted a moment."

MUST FOLLOW THE LINE.

One of the most important parts of a phonograph is the smallest—the needle. It must travel three miles in playing a single tune, and must follow the line from start to finish without the slightest deviation, else the harmony of the music will be lost. What many consider the smallest part of life is the most important—a conscientious effort to faithfully follow every line of duty, regardless of how small it may be. This will make the sum total a life of beautiful harmony—a successful life in the very best sense.

AFTER THIRTY YEARS' EFFORT.

Edwin Booth, the celebrated tragedian, was once asked to read the Lord's Prayer to an assembled company. As he arose, his eyes, turned upward, were wet with tears, and, as he proceeded, his pathos and fervid solemnity thrilled all hearts. At the close an aged man, with broken accent, said: "I have repeated the prayer from my boyhood, but I never knew it before—never." Said Booth: "To read that prayer as it should be read has cost me severest study and labor for thirty years, and I am far from being satisfied now."—*Biblical Illustrator.*

THE BACHELOR'S ADVICE.

There are so many persons who are afraid of doing too much that it is a relief to find one who always wishes to give good measure, to do more than would be expected rather than less. Such a young man was Harry Winstead. During his courtship a question of etiquette came up, so he went for advice to Tom Bradbury, a bachelor friend, presenting the question thus:

"You know, Tom, I'm keeping company with that charming Miss Ellsworth. When I escort her to the opera on a two-dollar ticket, after the opera to a fine restaurant for dinner, and then take her home in a taxicab, should I kiss her good-by at the gate?"

"I don't think she ought to expect it. I think you've done enough for her," was the bachelor's cold-hearted reply.

BUILT CENTURIES AGO.

The famous Appian Way, one of the roads leading to Rome, was constructed by Appius Claudius about 312 B. C., and is still in splendid condition. It is said that neither expense nor labor was taken into consideration in making this marvelous roadway.

The statue of King Da-uda, who reigned about 4500 B. C., is now in the museum at Constantinople. It was discovered by

Dr. Edward J. Banks, an American archeologist, among the ruins of the buried city of Adab, in Babylonia, and is supposed to be the oldest statue in the world.

"What is worth doing at all is worth doing well." Your best effort is none too good if you wish your work to stand the test of the ages.

ADVANTAGES IN BOTH.

"There are two sides to every question," we often hear. "Learn all you can about a subject that interests you," is good advice. It is said that a Mississippi Senator, conversing with a colored man, asked what breed of chickens he considered best. The reply both surprised and amused him:

"All kinds has merits. De white ones is de easiest to find; but de black ones is de easiest to hide aftah yo' gits 'em."

The Louisville *Courier-Journal* tells the following story:

"Every time I see grandfather's sword I want to go to war."

"Well?"

"But every time I notice grandfather's wooden leg I cool down."

THE LETTER YOU WRITE.

A business man, who had "made good," addressed a business class of a Young Men's Christian Association, and told of a country boy who wanted to go to a large city to make his fortune. He found an advertisement that appealed to him, and answered it. He wrote and tore up many letters, and sat up all night before producing the one he finally sent. Within a few days he received an invitation from the advertiser to come to New York for a personal interview, which he accepted. The first question asked him was, "Did you write this letter?" as it was pushed toward him. Replying modestly in the affirmative, the man said to him: "The position is yours."

The boy's letter, well worded, showing carefulness, neatness, intelligence, was the best recommendation he could have pro-

duced. Had he written hurriedly, carelessly, he would probably never have received a reply. He was the same young man who afterwards became the successful man who related the incident.

HIS TURN.

Asking questions may be due either to curiosity or a desire to be thorough when investigating a subject under discussion. *Everybody's Magazine* tells of a club of eccentric young men which had for one of its rules that on Tuesday evenings any member who asked a question he could not himself answer must pay a fine of $10.

"Why doesn't a ground-squirrel leave any dirt around the top of his hole when he digs it?" asked McLoughlin.

The others gave it up, and the question was put back to him.

"That's easy," said he; "the squirrel starts at the bottom and digs up."

"But," promptly quizzed a member, "how does he get to the bottom?"

"That's your question," answered McLoughlin, with a mischievous smile.

TOBACCO.

ONLY SANE MEN WANTED.

Mr. Harriman, the well-known railroad man, once said:

"Cigarette-users are unsafe as railroad men. I would just as soon think of getting my employes out of an insane asylum as to employ cigarette-users."

A DEADLY POISON.

"Nicotine obtained from tobacco is one of the most powerful and rapidly acting poisons known to science," says Dr. F. C. Walsh. "It is because of this that tobacco and the drugs derived from it have been officially dropped from medical practice.

Tobacco applied as a poultice to a raw surface has caused death to a human being within three hours. A sailor boy, caught chewing tobacco, and fearing chastisement, swallowed it. He died half an hour afterward from paralysis of the respiratory organs. One-fifteenth of a grain of nicotine has caused death to a human being, and in one well-known case one drop killed a cat in seventy-eight seconds."

RELIABLE TESTIMONY.

One peculiarity of things that are injurious, or evil in their effects, is that those who profit by them frequently give the strongest possible testimony against them, in their efforts to show the superiority of their article over that of competitors. Here is such an instance—an extract from the advertisement of a tobacco company:

"Do you like a cigar that tastes like a dried cornstalk? Do you enjoy having a cankered tongue and a tender throat? You are smoking cigars, aren't you? Your throat tickles, your head is swimmy in the morning, you have to steady your hand to write a check, your stenographer hates you, and your wife breathes a sigh of relief whenever you leave the house."

Bear in mind that this is not from the tract of a temperance society, but from a dealer in tobacco, who, of course, knows what he is talking about.

UNION.

HELD UP A TRAIN.

The power of united effort of feeble forces is seen in a story from South Africa. In December, 1912, a swarm of bees took possession of a railway station, and not only drove off the passengers waiting there, but the officials as well. They held the station until they took their departure in the evening, checking the transaction of business and the moving of all trains. "In union there is strength."

LOOKED TO OTHERS.

Noland R. Best, as quoted in the *Expositor,* says: "When I went into my first battle I was sure I would run at the first shot. When the fire came on the line I looked around me, and saw Joe and Tom both standing fast. I said to myself that I could stand it as long as they did, so I didn't run. When the fight was over I learned they had said the same thing about me —they were going to run when I did."

Stand firm for the right, always—for the sake of others as well as yourself.

CROSSING A BRIDGE.

"A regiment of soldiers marching in step across a trestle or other light bridge would cause such a tremendous swaying motion that it would give way, and so soldiers always 'break step' in crossing such a bridge."

It is when the citizens of a community march "in step" against any evil that they are enabled to exert such an influence as to cause it to give way before their combined efforts. When they "break step" the devil goes on unmolested in his work.

LIONS IN THE WAY.

During the building of the Cape-to-Cairo railway in Africa, that the riches of the land might be opened up to civilization, work on the big bridge over the Tsavo River was brought to a standstill by the ferocity of three man-eating lions, which had killed twenty-nine of the laborers. The others refused to proceed, but finally were organized on the plan of a military company, and slew the beasts. The work was then resumed with safety.

Persons engaged in the effort to make safe paths for themselves and the coming generations must organize and stand together if they would slay the many lions hungering for the best blood of the youths of our land.

UNSELFISHNESS.

WHEN SELF IS FORGOTTEN.

"When a dog is not noticed he doesn't like it," says a writer. "But when the dog is after a fox he doesn't care whether he is noticed or not. If a minister is *seeking for souls,* he will not think of himself. Self is forgotten in the single aim to save others."

"ALWAYS THINKING OF OTHERS."

A Korean missionary overheard two heathen talking about the Christians. "What do you think of this new faith?" one asked. "Are you going to be a Christian too?" "No," was the reply; "how could I? I have to think of myself, and these Christians are always thinking of others."—*Record of Christian Work.*

THE PURPOSE OF THEIR LIGHT.

In a magazine appeared a remarkable picture of four natives illuminating the dark passage leading to the tomb of the Cheops in the heart of the great pyramid of Egypt. They were not trying to display themselves, but the wonderful works about them. And so, if we will permit it, the light from heaven will shine through us, and the lost will see the wonderful works of Jehovah, and be led to him.—*Rev. M. M. Davis, in Christian Standard.*

HOW FAR MAN CAN SEE.

Experiments made in the German Army for ascertaining at what distance one soldier could recognize another, proved that a person seen once before could be recognized at a distance of eighty feet, and an acquaintance at three hundred. *Popular Mechanics* says that sailors, hunters and farmers can usually see clearly six hundred feet, probably due to their constant training in determining distant objects.

In the affairs of life many do not see beyond their own

needs. When made acquainted with conditions in general, their range of vision increases. The real philanthropist, in heart and deed, sees, with the eyes of knowledge and faith, others who may be far away, because of a constant unselfishness in the welfare of the whole human family.

ACT MISUNDERSTOOD.

Two boys were taken to the Juvenile Court in Kansas City, Kan., on the charge of stealing a horse. When they explained that they had simply, through pity, taken the animal from the street to a shed for protection from the cold, biting winds, the judge dismissed the case with the remark: "It's a shame you were brought here. What you need is a reward, not a fine."

Many times the actions of well-meaning people are misjudged. If we always knew the details, we would often praise instead of blame.

FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.

The plague once came from London to the village of Eyam, in its worst form. Rev. Mr. Mopessen, the rector, and his wife resolved to stay and care for the sick. All the people wanted to fly to other places, but by the influence of the rector they were induced to remain at Eyam, in order not to risk spreading the disease, which often meant death in a day. Not even one case broke out in any neighboring town, but 259 of the inhabitants of the afflicted village died. By their unselfish act they undoubtedly saved the lives of thousands of others.—*Amy D. Putnam.*

THE WONDERFUL BOTTLE-ANT.

Of all the self-sacrificing creatures that live, I know of none which appeal to me more strongly than the ants which act as honey-bottles for their colonies. The other workers go out and gather the honey, bring it to the nest, regurgitate it, and the bottle-ants store it away. Then they crawl as best their wonderfully distended abdomens will permit, and attach themselves

to the rafters of their house, where they hang patiently, always ready to "turn up the honey-jug" for the baby ants and for the workers when they are hungry. As for themselves, no amount of hunger seems to tempt them into feeding from their own stores. How their little feet manage to hold on to the ceiling of their house day after day and month after month I can not imagine. . . . Filled with the richest food, they yet are willing to starve in order that their brothers and sisters may have their regular meals.—*William Joseph Showalter, in San Francisco Chronicle.*

KEEPING OUT OF SIGHT.

Seeking diversion by fishing in the streams of Scotland, a literary man went from the city with patent pole and a complete outfit of the most expensive kind. After hours of effort without even a bite, he came across a country boy with only a switch for a pole and a bent pin for a hook—but he had a long string of fish.

"Why is it *I* can't catch any?" the man inquired.

"Because you don't keep yourself out of sight," the boy quietly replied.

This is the secret of fishing for men as well as trout. Hold up the cross of Christ. Send the people away talking about him instead of praising you.—*The Volunteer.*

SAFETY-WALLS IN POWDER-PLANTS.

Instead of a single large plant, powder manufacturers usually maintain several small ones in different localities, so that if there be an explosion less loss is sustained. Each of these plants is built with one safety-wall. When the accidental explosion occurs, it readily gives way, while the remainder of the structure stands practically uninjured; otherwise the entire plant would be in danger of destruction.

There are many times in life when, in order to bring the greatest good to the greatest number, some one must step aside,

perhaps from a long-cherished desire. There are souls so noble that they continually live in the spirit which might be represented by the safety-wall. Come what will, they stand ready, without a word of complaint, to sacrifice personal ambition in order that good may come to others.

CHURCH BUILT FROM ONE STONE.

The Presbyterian Church at Waterloo, Ia., erected in 1891, was made entirely from one huge boulder, which for countless ages, presumably, had rested in a meadow four miles from that city. The owner of the land donated the great rock in order to have it removed. By dynamiting, it was broken into hundreds of pieces, and built into a large, beautiful structure, the pride of the town, says Mrs. S. M. Wright, in the *Christian Herald*. It is estimated that as one piece it weighed twenty-five hundred tons. It measured twenty-eight feet high, thirty feet long and twenty feet wide.

Preserving itself from contact with other material, as it were, it was useless. Surrendered, while it lost its original identity, it was made to serve in aiding the advancement of the greatest cause upon earth.

Men and women, wrapped up in themselves, are as useless as was this boulder. Surrendered to the master Builder, Christ, they are transformed into beings of power for good, to become parts of the great Temple of Service in the world, for its redemption.

VALUES.

FOUND IN THE EARTH.

You need not know some persons long to learn what is uppermost in their minds. Perhaps often when hoping for the discovery of high ideals in others you meet with disappointment, hence know how to appreciate the chagrin that came to the school inspector who was examining a primary class. "Now,

children," he asked, "what else do we find in the earth besides coal?"

He thought the answer, of course, would be gold, copper, or some other metal, but, instead, a boy who was extremely fond of fishing spoke up confidently:

"Worms, Mister! Worms!"

THE WORLD'S LARGEST BELL.

Moscow, the well-known manufacturing city in Russia, is noted for two things—a great decorative cannon and a colossal bell, the largest in the world. The bell, which was cracked before it had ever been placed in the tower, has a rim sixty feet in circumference, is nineteen feet high and weighs 196 tons. Notwithstanding their immense proportions, neither has ever been of any use, as the cannon has never been fired, nor has the bell ever been tolled.

The only claim of some men and women to distinction is that they have great possessions—perhaps several thousand acres of land and a few million dollars. Like the city of Moscow, they are noted for what they possess that has never been of any use.

THE SOLDIER DIDN'T KNOW.

The Braganza diamond, the size of a pullet's egg, is valued at $1,500,000; the Pitt diamond, often called the "Regent," at $700,000; the Orloff, a Russian crown jewel, at $450,000. It is said that the Florentine diamond, one of the Austrian crown jewels, once came by chance and legitimately into the possession of a private soldier. Not knowing its value, he sold it for fifty cents.—*Boys' World.*

The most valuable of all jewels is love. It has rightly been called "the greatest thing in the world." The king or queen may possess it, but no more so than the humblest citizen. Like the soldier with the wonderful jewel in his possession, many do not realize its value. There is only one way it can be taken from us

—when Hate comes into the heart, Love goes out. The two can not dwell together.

THE IMPERIAL TOPAZ.

Many years ago an English traveler in Rome saw an Italian peasant examining a little stone found in the ruins of an old palace, and offered him five dollars for it, which was gladly accepted. The new owner took it to a lapidary, had it examined, and it proved to be the world-famous imperial topaz, which once dazzled in the crown of Cæsar Augustus, and valued at $250,000.

Like the peasant who knew not the worth of that which he possessed, many do not realize the worth of the jewels within the reach of all—the golden hours, set with sixty diamonds each. In every one of them it is possible to do some kind act that will live in its influence long after the diamonds of earth have lost their value.

WHAT MENTAL ANGUISH IS WORTH.

The *Public Ledger* once told of an Arkansas grocer who received a telegram announcing that a certain friend was dead. The message should have stated that the friend was "on his way." The misleading information so wrought upon the grocer's emotions that he brought suit against the telegraph company for the error, the jury awarding him $50 for the damage to his physical system.

It is contended by some who have made it a study that one fit of anger takes from the body more vitality than the hardest day's work it is possible to do, and that great sorrow also draws heavily upon one's strength.

Gradually men are coming to learn that the finer human qualities can not be disregarded without a corresponding depletion of physical, as well as mental, moral and spiritual strength. Looked at from any standpoint, it is wise to heed the exhortation in the good Book to be diligent in the increase of faith, virtue,

knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and love.

HE SAVED HIS SHOES.

A New York paper published the story of an intoxicated man who removed his new shoes and put them out of harm's way, then lay down in his stupor upon the trolley-track on upper Broadway. The fender of an approaching car threw him off, inflicting a scalp wound. His shoes were not hurt. Commenting upon the incident, the *Christian Herald* said:

"We can think of no greater folly than the attempt to put one's shoes out of danger, disregarding altogether the safety of one's head. But, after all, do we not every day see people doing things equally absurd? Men plan to protect the trifling things accumulated here—jewels, money, houses, land—and take no care to protect the immortal soul. Is that saner than the sleepy mutterings of a drunken man: 'I will save my new shoes; never mind my head'?"

WAR.

TERRIBLE COST OF WAR.

Benjamin F. Trueblood, LL.D., estimates that the loss of life in the wars of the world during the nineteenth century totaled at least fourteen million, while the cost in money is put at forty thousand millions of dollars—"a sum so vast that the mention of it leaves only a confused impression upon the mind."

The reader should remember that these figures, vast as they are, include only one century. It will truly be a glad day for this sorrowing world when the words in Isa. 2:4 come true: "For he will judge between the nations, and will decide concerning many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

Had England settled her disputes with the Boers by arbitration, she would have saved three years of bitterness and $1,100,000,000, which might have been expended thus: one thousand old people's homes at $100,000 each; one thousand public playgrounds at $50,000 each; one thousand public libraries at $50,000 each; one thousand trade schools at $200,000 each; five hundred hospitals at $200,000 each; three thousand public schools at $100,000 each; 150,000 workingmen's houses at $2,000 each.—*Primer of Peace Movement.*

The cost of the great European war of 1914 to the principal nations involved was estimated at $54,000,000 a day.

"DON'T CHEER; THEY'RE DYING."

When the yellow and red flag was pulled down on the "Almirante Oquendo," during the Spanish-American War of 1898, the commander of the U. S. battleship "Texas" gave the order to his men: "Don't cheer; they're dying." From these words, Charles W. Thompson wrote, in the New York *Sun*:

> The victor looks over the shot-churned wave
> At the riven ship of his foemen brave,
> And the men in their life-blood lying;
> And the joy of conquest leaves his eyes,
> The lust of fame and of battle dies,
> And he says: "Don't cheer; they're dying."

WATCHFULNESS.

UNFORTUNATE NAP.

An Indiana constable boarded a train with a prisoner, to take him to jail in another town, and the motion of the train soon put the officer to sleep. When he awoke, he found that the other had leaped from the moving car and that he himself had been handcuffed with the irons he had failed to put on the prisoner.

Many a young man has boarded the train of life with evil

companions and fallen asleep to the dangers surrounding him, awaking to find himself handcuffed. Arouse, friend! Watch Satan! Give not him nor his helpers a chance to bind you with the iron bands of sinful habits.

THE CRY OF DISTRESS.

A friend asked a life-saver at Newport, R. I., how he could tell when any one of the thousands of persons on the beach and in the water was in need of help, to which he replied: "There has never been a time that I could not distinguish the cry of distress above all other noises." And that is exactly like God. In the midst of the babel and confusion he never fails to hear the soul that cries out to him for help amid the breakers and storms of life.—*The Expositor.*

THE AWAKENING.

An engineer on one of the big railroad lines centering in Chicago fell asleep at the throttle, while his engine was hauling coaches bearing over three hundred passengers. He awoke with a start to see a danger signal ahead, and stopped just in time to avoid a terrible wreck.

The captain of a Norwegian ship likewise went to sleep on duty, and awoke not a moment too soon to prevent a collision with an English merchant vessel.

We are each responsible for the safety of perhaps hundreds who may feel secure in following our example. Dear hearer, if your hand is on the lever of *Influence,* and you feel the least bit drowsy, wake up—*wake up!*

WISDOM.

MUCH IN LITTLE SPACE.

When a man finds fault, it is nobody's fault but his own. . . . No man can run into debt without exceeding the speed limit. . . . Sometimes the thing we get for nothing is nothing to our credit.

. . . Things won't come your way if you insist on always having your way. . . . You will never catch up with a successful man by trying to run him down. . . . Too many let the worst they can guess about a man eclipse the good they know about him.—*C. A. Lee.*

CHANGE YOUR PLANS.

It is pretty hard for us, sometimes, to learn that, while principles never wear out, plans and methods sooner or later are likely to do so. It is folly to suppose that the thing which succeeded at one time will prove equally successful under all conditions. Blessed is that one who has had the good sense to discard a plan that has been really successful, but which is no longer producing good results.—*The Lookout.*

SAYINGS OF LINCOLN.

"I do not think much of a man who is not wiser to-day than he was yesterday. . . . Broken eggs can not be mended. . . . No man is good enough to govern another man without that other man's consent. . . . When I am dead I want my friends to remember that I always plucked a thistle and planted a rose when in my power. . . . I do not wish to die until the world is better for my having lived. . . . All that I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother."

A WONDERFUL BELL.

Dr. Francis E. Clark, in writing of the marvels of the great cathedral at Freiburg, Germany (about seven hundred years old), tells of its many bells, one of which is called "Susanna," weighing ten thousand pounds, "whose tongue, as is appropriate to a female of such dimensions, weighs four hundred pounds." It sends out its loud, resounding peals every Friday at eleven o'clock as a memorial of the crucifixion of Jesus.

If the human tongue would ring out only in proportion to its relative size, compared with the rest of the body, there would be

much less loud, frivolous talking in the world. In Prov. 15:2 is a truth all would do well to heed: "The tongue of the wise uttereth knowledge aright, but the mouth of fools poureth out folly."

MISCELLANEOUS

SEPARATE LINKS.

GREED.

Worked Until He Fell.—Because he had been compelled to work sixty-three hours out of seventy-two, a freight conductor on one of the leading Eastern railroads became exhausted on the third day and fell between the engine and a car, crushing his right arm and injuring his spine. He brought suit against the corporation and was awarded $75,000.

Thus does greed for the sole sake of gain bring its own punishment.

HARVEST.

Sowing the Tares.—A prisoner in the Maryland Penitentiary, after hearing D. L. Moody, retired to his cell, where he wrote these impressive words and handed them to Mr. Moody, who read them at Maryland Institute the same day. Later the words were set to music by W. T. Giffee, and published in his book, "Giffee's Male Choir":

"Sowing the tares, when it might have been wheat;
Sowing of malice, spite and deceit.
We might have sown roses amid life's sad cares
While we were so cruelly sowing the tares.

"Sowing the tares, how dark the black sin;
Mingling a curse with life's sweetest hymn,
And heeding no anguish, no piteous prayers,
While we were so cruelly sowing the tares.

"Sowing the tares that bring sorrow down,
Rob of its jewels life's fairest crown,
And turning to silver the once golden hairs,
Grown whiter and whiter as we sowed the tares.

"Sowing the tares under cover of night,
Which might have been wheat, all golden and bright.
O heart, turn to God with repentance and prayers,
And plead for forgiveness for sowing the tares."

HEREDITY.

"Blood Will Tell."—The Jukes family, famous in crime, consisted of parents and five sons. The mother was an inferior woman. The boys were likewise. They married and had children. The offspring numbered twelve hundred in three-quarters of a century. About the year 1873 the records of 709 were traced for scientific purposes, when it was found that 208 were paupers, 104 criminals, 60 thieves, 7 murderers, and 165 convicted of miscellaneous crimes. The cost to the State in trying the various cases was $1,308,000.

The State Department of Charities of New Jersey, in its report on the Piney family, existing amid the squalor of the pine belt of that State, found that of 199 whose records were looked up, 124 were degenerate, 20 were criminals, 15 illegitimate, 12 in the almshouse, and that only 13 were normal.

Truly, the wrongs of parents cause sorrow and sinning among their offspring, even to the third and fourth generations.

INDECISION.

The Value of a Moment.—"Two boys were skating on an ice-floe," says a writer, "which had been grounded in Picton Harbor, when one of them noticed that it was moving slowly away from the shore. With a warning shout he sprang in, and, after a desperate struggle, escaped. The other hesitated, watching the widening distance between him and safety as the ice caught the sweep of the tide. With a wild cry he, too, sprang in —but he never reached the shore. The moment of indecision cost him his life."

INFIDELITY.

Confessed Defeat.—Julian, Emperor of Rome, a pronounced infidel, died on the battlefield fighting Christians. He was pierced in the side by an arrow. Making a cup of his hands, he caught the blood from the wound, which he tossed in the air, and, as he did so, died, calling out: "O Nazarene, thou hast conquered!"

PRECEDENT.

THE CALF PATH.—There was a time when one who was able to point to a precedent made a strong impression upon his hearers, whatever the cause he espoused. This characteristic of human nature is well presented by Sam Walter Foss in his poem, "The Calf Path," which starts thus:

"One day through the primeval wood
A calf walked home, as good calves should;
But made a trail all bent askew,
A crooked trail, as all calves do.

"Since then two hundred years have fled,
And, I infer, the calf is dead—
But still he left behind his trail,
And thereby hangs a moral tale."

Mr. Foss proceeds to tell how a dog next went over the trail, later the bell-wether sheep, followed by its flock, making a path for men; how the path became a lane; and the lane a road; the road a village street, "and this, before men were aware, a city's crowded thoroughfare," over which one hundred thousand men passed each day, because a calf first went that way. "For thus such reverence is lent to well-established precedent."

PRUDENCE.

A BOY'S RESOLUTION.—"I will be kind to dumb animals, such as tigers, lions and elephants (stray cats and dogs, however, had better keep out of this neighborhood)."

This is much like men who obey their superiors with politeness and insult their inferiors with harsh language.

RETRIBUTION.

"WITHIN THE LAW."—He who thinks to profit by some clever maneuver need not be surprised if he finds himself the loser instead. The story is told of a young man who bought two thousand cigars, had them insured, smoked them up, then brought suit against the insurance company on the ground that they were

destroyed by fire. The court granted his claim; and then the company sued him on the charge of setting fire to his own property. The same court fined the young man and sentenced him to three months in jail.

TRIFLES.

Museum of Fleas.—One of the wealthiest men of the early part of the twentieth century made a collection of fleas, establishing a museum, with several hundred specimens, including the sand-flea and the flea of the white seal, showing that at least one of them is not averse to water. Perhaps the action should be commended, as a study of insect life, but no doubt it will strike the average person as a waste of time and money.

Could we but see into the inner lives of others, it is possible we would often be surprised at the large number of little things which they have stored up in their hearts—petty spites, jealousies, slights, shortcomings, bickerings. Where should be a storehouse of the rich, helpful things of life, they have crowded in the small annoyances, cherishing them to the spoiling of their enjoyment of the better things. Don't make your heart a museum of fleas. Instead, make it a palace of generous impulses, prompting to the rendering of many kindly deeds.

TRUSTFULNESS.

Spared Fawn's Life.—Rev. C. A. Dixon tells of a young man, fond of hunting, who was out walking one morning, when he came upon a little fawn, wearied in its efforts to escape a pack of hounds, already near. Instead of running farther, it came and fell in a heap at his feet. Its trustfulness so touched him that he resolved to save its life, which he did, but not without fighting off the hounds for half an hour. Its weakness appealed to his strength, and he carried it home, where it became a playful pet for his children. "So the Christian's weakness appeals to the strength of God. Yes, and our Shepherd brings us into his own household."

WEEPING.

NATURE'S RELIEF.—The strongest women sometimes need the safety-valves of tears. They cry for the sake of their health and not for graft. A woman who needs and takes a good cry generally sneaks off by herself. In an hour she emerges radiant, smiling, refreshed, and strong enough to take up the burden of life and stand straight under it. With a weak and selfish woman, tears in public are a weapon for graft. Take your choice, you men who are thinking of marriage.—*Delineator.*

USE OF OBJECTS

THE APPEAL THROUGH THE EYE.

The value of *objects* in teaching, or in addressing an audience, is emphasized in the fact, scientifically demonstrated, that *eighty* impressions are made upon the mind through the *eye* to *one* through the *ear*. In this connection, it is well to reflect that we can *see* much farther than we *hear*. It is said that while lightning may be seen two hundred miles away, thunder is seldom heard at a greater distance than ten miles.

Some experts in child-teaching classify children as "ear-minded" and "eye-minded." Those who are thought to be dull, because unable to memorize a line by reading, may do so at once by *hearing* it read. On the other hand, there are those who are unable to learn from hearing others read or speak, who may readily retain when they read for themselves—the *eye* conveying the information from the printed page to the brain.

From this it seems wise to frequently utilize the means of appeal through the eye. The use of objects is not only helpful in fixing facts upon the minds of the young, but older persons as well. Speakers who are called upon to make talks to boys and girls in audiences where men and women are also assembled, usually will find the older ones as well as the children giving the closest attention to the portion of the address in which some object, picture or motion is used.

The following are offered as aids, with the hope that each may prove helpful, and that the list as a whole may suggest many others to those who have occasion to make use of object-illustrations:

ALPHABET BLOCKS.

CHOOSING.—Here are all the letters of the alphabet, mixed up, as you see. But boys and girls who know how, can spell many words with them. Mary, please find the blocks that spell "love." That's right. Now, Walter, you will pick out the ones that spell "hate." You see, each of you found and made what you were looking for. Living in this world is much like playing with a box of letters. Some persons are continually doing the things that spell "hate." They are very unhappy. Othere are doing the things that spell "love," and their lives are full of joy.

APPLES.

CONDUCT.—Have you ever known any one who was "too good"? Or any one whom a tinge of wickedness made more attractive? No. Let's imagine a woman in a grocery store giving an order for a box of apples. Would she say, "I don't want them too good; in fact, prefer that they be partly spoiled"? She surely would not. She would want the best to be obtained. The persons who do as near right as possible will, like the good apples, be far more in demand than those who think it smart to be "a little bit tough."

ENVY.—Hold up apparently good apple with worm-hole. Cut it open and show how the worm has commenced eating at the heart, and tell how the apple would soon be ruined by it. Envy, jealousy, hatred, may seem small things to hold in our hearts, but we must put them out. If we do not, like the worm in the apple, they will grow until they ruin us.

BANDAGE.

BLINDNESS.—Tie bandage over the eyes of some one to show how the light is shut out from his vision. We have all seen blind people. It's a pitiful sight. They must feel their way around with their hands or a stick, or be led by a friend. In China there are half a million blind men and women, due largely

to unclean habits and surroundings. . . . There is another kind of blindness far worse. Some folks see no good in those they do not like; they are blinded by prejudice and hate. Others see none of the beauties of nature; they are too busy making money. Many are blind to things that go wrong. A father once said, "I see no harm in the liquor business." Later his oldest son became a drunkard; then he saw the awful harm of it, and changed from a friend of the liquor interests to a bitter antagonist.

BANK-BOOK.

Treasures.—This book shows that Thomas Baldwin has $6,450 on deposit in the First National Bank, which is all very well in its way; but there is something more important than having money to one's credit and that is many good deeds. We can all become rich in this way. Every kind, helpful act is a deposit in the bank of heaven, for Jesus said: "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

BASEBALL.

Habits.—Much of the value of a pitcher to a baseball team is his ability to pitch curves. It is not an easy thing to do—at first. It comes from practice—with some, a long, hard, patient persistence before proficiency is attained. . . . There are some things in life that we do not find easy. We let our temper fly away off on a tangent. We pitch our angry words out thoughtlessly—and then feel sorry about it. If we would control our words and make them just what we want them to be, we must, like the pitcher, *practice,* and keep at it until we succeed.

BELLS.

Conscience.—Show small hand-bell. Ring it. Get your hearers to mention a variety of bells and tell what they are for. In the sick-room, to call the nurse; in the steeple, to call the

people to Sunday school and church. . . . Harry picked up a rock to throw at a bird, but stopped suddenly and let it fall. A little farther on he saw an old woman struggling along with a heavy bundle. He took it in his arms and rested her while they walked over a block together. Something in him rang out clearly each time, telling him *not* to do one thing, and to *do* the other. It was the bell of conscience. He obeyed it and was happy.

BOARDS.

CHARACTER.—Show three boards, any length or width. Here is one with a big knot-hole, and rough on both sides. Here's another a little better—smooth on one side and only a small knot-hole. The third is perfectly sound, smooth all around and attractive to the eye. You have need of a board. Which will you take? . . . A store manager advertises, "Boy Wanted." Many call to see him—some carelessly dressed, with soiled hands and cigarette breath; others neatly attired, but the man learns they are deceptive, tell little falsehoods and spend their time carelessly. Here is one youth "clean as a whistle," inside and out, with clean hands and a pure heart. Which one does the manager employ?

BOOKS.

WISDOM.—Here is a book telling how to make things. Here is another on the wonders of nature; another about great men and what made them successful. Would you rather have one of these or an orange? Why, the book, of course. It is food for the mind. You want wisdom. When Solomon was given his choice of the things he would like, he asked for wisdom. He wanted to know all about things. God granted his desire. What is the best book in the world? The Bible; yes. Why? It tells us all about ourselves, how to live, how to treat others, how to be happy here and in the life to come.

Timothy Dwight has well said: "The Bible is a window in this prison-world through which we may look into eternity."

BOTTLES.

SELFISHNESS.—One bottle filled with water, corked tight; another, empty. Fableize them. The first, a person with an abundance, selfishly keeping it all; the other, a man in need, simply asking a drink to quench his thirst. Tell of the Dead Sea. It keeps all it gets. It is so dead that no animal life can exist in it, nor vegetation grow upon its shores. Contrast with lakes which are fresh, sparkling and life-sustaining, because they give out a portion of all they receive. The happy, beautiful life is the one that cheers and strengthens others.

THE MIND.—Have two bottles containing water, one corked tight and the other with stopper by its side. Dip dropper into ink, hold over each bottle, and press out small quantity. The uncorked bottle soon looks black, while the other remains clean, after the ink has dripped down its side, into a saucer. . . . The bottles are like people; some open their minds to unclean stories, think about them, talk about them, finally becoming black with sin. Others refuse to feed on unclean things, and remain pure and wholesome in their influence for good. "We can not keep the birds from flying over our heads, but we can prevent them from building their nests in our hair."

BREAD.

GROWTH.—If we expect to grow and keep well, we must subsist on that which will make rich blood and strong muscles. One of the most important of all foods is bread. During great famines in India thousands die for want of bread. Sometimes people eat and drink things which do them no good, only harm. In Central America grows a plant called the nardoo, which satisfies hunger, but is destitute of all nutritious elements. A party of Englishmen once perished of starvation while feeding daily upon it. . . . To really live we must have more than food for the body. We must have food for the mind and soul. We must read and think about the right things. We must have a

source of supply. In John 6:35 Jesus says: "I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall not hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

BRICK.

TALENTS.—In every large city are great buildings made of brick. It requires thousands of them. Suppose this brick were one of a great pile and should refuse to be used because it would fill only a small place in the high wall. Then, suppose each of the others followed its example. We know what the result would be. . . . We all know persons, perhaps, whose lives are almost as worthless because they refuse to do the little things they could do well. By doing our part and every one else doing his part the world is made better because we have lived in it.

BRIDLE.

SELF-CONTROL.—How many of you have ever been on a pony or driven a team? How did you guide the horses? By drawing the reins fastened to the bridle-bit. In the third chapter of James we read: "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able to bridle the whole body." We see here how we may have perfect self-control. If we keep our words right, we have done the hardest thing of all. Some men have conquered great cities, but couldn't conquer themselves. Get a good grip on the lines, and make yourself say and do the things you know you should say and do.

BUCKETS.

TRIFLES.—Exhibit two tin buckets or other receptacles, one in good condition and one with small hole in bottom. From the first pour water into the other. Let a few drops leak out, then quickly change contents back into good bucket. Explain how all would have been lost in the same way, and that a small leak may even sink a great ship. Relate the story of the Holland boy who held his hand over a leak in a big dyke, keeping back

the waters until help came, thus saving perhaps many lives. . . . Sometimes we are conscious of little acts we know are wrong. They seem so small we think no harm can come from them. But we are mistaken. If not checked, they will gradually but surely unfit us for life's work. We must overcome them or they will overcome us.

CANDLES.

CONDUCT.—One candle in good condition, another with wick damp. Light both. Why does one shine with such a bright, steady flame, while the other flickers and sputters? Because one is as it should be and the other has partaken of something it should not. . . . Some boys and girls have bright, steady eyes and look you straight in the face, because they are doing right. Others turn the head and "flicker" when they speak to you, because they have done something wrong.

CARBON-PAPER.

INFLUENCE.—Have prepared beforehand several sheets of white paper with the name of a person on each, and between these have sheets of carbon-paper. Ask the one whose name is on the top sheet to come forward and write "What I do is felt by others." Then have him make a long, straight mark and a long, crooked one. Hold up to the view of the group and read the words, asking, "Is that true?" Get your hearers to talk about it. Then surprise them by showing the different sheets of paper, each bearing the same words and marks. Explain that, while Harry wrote only on his sheet, the impression thus made was carried to all the others, and that our conduct in life will just as surely make an impression for good or ill upon others.

COTTON.

CARELESSNESS.—It wouldn't require much cotton in your ears to make you "hard of hearing." Perhaps when mother called to her children in another room they didn't answer. They were

"hard of hearing" because they were so busy playing. Maybe they didn't wish to hear her dear voice just then. We should be just as prompt in hearing mother when she calls us to do some little errand for her as when she calls us to the dinner-table, loaded with good things to eat.

DUMMY, OR LARGE DOLL.

IDOLS AND IDLERS.—(Your clothing merchant will no doubt gladly loan you a boy dummy.) Introduce the illustration by introducing yourself to the dummy, and comment upon the fact that he pays no attention to you—does not look at you, walk toward, shake hands with nor speak to you. After brief remarks about idols and idol-worship, read Ps. 115:5-7: "They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not; they have ears, but they hear not; noses have they, but they smell not; they have hands, but they handle not; feet have they, but they walk not; neither speak they through their throats." Compare this striking description of the idol to the idlers of to-day, who, although blessed with health, in the possession of their senses and having many opportunities for doing good, yet whose lives of indolence are as useless as the idols of the heathen or the merchant's dummy. A dummy of flesh and blood is but little better than a dummy of wood or stone, silver or gold. We should be glad to see and hear the good, then with ready hands and willing feet carry it to others.

EGGS.

TESTING.—We speak of good and bad eggs. Have you seen men testing eggs by holding them close to a strong light? They see right into them, keeping the good ones and throwing the others away. Doctors use an instrument called the X-ray, as you know, and by means of this can see the inside of a body—locate broken bones, or other difficulties; a bullet, which, if not removed, may cause blood poisoning. . . . So the great Physician

can see into our hearts, and knows whether we have any "broken words" there—little stories; or whether a "bullet" of hatred has lodged there, which, if not taken out, may poison our whole spiritual and soul system with envy. God can make us right, if we will let him.

ELECTRIC-LIGHT BULB.

EFFECTIVENESS.—This bulb is of use only when—will some one please tell us?—when in its proper place to receive and give forth its light. So we are of use in the world only when in our place, doing our work to the best of our ability. In this way alone can we "let our light shine" and thus help others.

ELECTRIC-LIGHT WIRE.

EXAMPLE.—Here is a piece of insulated wire. While you look at this I want you to think of a strike in a Western city. It was among the employes of a great lighting system. Some one cut a big lead-wire, throwing a large section of the city in darkness. . . . When good men and women go on a "strike" against the performance of some duty because things do not go to suit them, they often "cut the wire" of their influence, thus leaving in darkness many who had been following the light of their good example.

ERASER.

FORGIVENESS.—Write a sentence on the blackboard with red chalk, purposely making several mistakes. Ask the first one discovering them to come forward and erase it all. Then write it again, correctly, with *white* chalk. . . . When we make a mistake and do wrong we can ask God to forgive us—to rub it all out; "for the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." Will God hear us? Yes, for we read in Isa. 1:18: "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as *white* as snow; though they be *red* like crimson, they shall be as wool." Seeing that God is ready to forgive us when we make mistakes, how

should we act toward those who wrong us? We find our answer in Eph. 4:32: "Be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

ENVELOPES.

COURTESY.—Here are two letters, sealed. One envelope bears address and stamp, while the other is improperly addressed and has no stamp. Suppose you drop both into a mail-box; what will become of them? One will reach the person for whom it is intended and the other will not. . . . Sometimes the words we utter fail to reach the hearts of others because we do not properly "address" *them;* because we speak sharp, cross words. We haven't the *stamp* of unselfish sincerity in our remarks, hence our message is lost.

FLAGS.

MISSIONS.—Small and inexpensive flags may be obtained at stores, or by sending to publishing-houses. Of course you will include the United States colors. If possible, procure a Christian flag—white, with red cross on blue field in upper left-hand corner. Pass them around. Explain that each country has its own flag, its own laws, its own customs, but the billion and a half people in the world constitute one great family, with the same longings and emotions; that as there is one flag—the Christian flag—above all others, so is there one Book above all others—the Bible. It teaches us that God is the same loving Father to people of all colors and nations, and that the gospel of Jesus, his Son, is for every one, for Christ said to his disciples, "Go ye into *all the world* and preach the gospel to *the whole creation.*"

GLASS.

PREJUDICE.—(Use colored glass or goggles.) Charles and Sam, here's a piece of glass for each of you. Look through it and tell me what color this handkerchief appears. Charley says

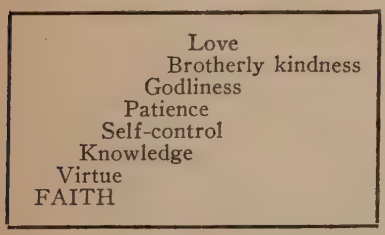
it's "blue" and Sam thinks it's "brown." You're both wrong. Now put the glass aside; what color is the handkerchief? You both answer "white," and that's correct. So, we will never really know our friends and of the good in their lives until we look at them without the colored glasses of prejudice.

KEYS.

Love.—Hand some one a key and ask him to unlock a door, desk, or library-case, whichever may be the most convenient. Be sure beforehand that it has been locked. Purposely hand out the wrong key, and when an unsuccessful effort has been made, present the right one, whereupon the lock is readily turned. The last key is like love, kindness, goodwill. Many times in life we find doors that will open to no other power. In the book, "The Legacy of the Golden Key," is this sentiment, which all would do well to memorize and practice: "Love to God and man is the golden key that opens the heart to all good and closes it to all evil; that unlocks the gates of doubt and discouragement standing across our pathway to success; that unbars the doors of prejudice and hate in the heart of others, to reason and justice, thus giving the incentive and preparing the way for all the good we may ever hope to do."

LADDERS.

Progress.—(A lesson from 2 Pet. 1:5-7. Make small ladder of eight rungs, and on each place one of the characteristics mentioned; make distinct letters, on cardboard or paper. If this is not convenient, carry out same idea on blackboard. Place the word "Faith" on the bottom rung, "Virtue" on the second, and so on up, as here given.) This is the "Ladder of



Progress." With each step we go higher in character-building, reaching the climax in what? "Love." We are told that "the greatest of these is love."

Blessedness.—(Ladder of nine rungs. Suggestions for making, same as above. Use in presenting the lesson of the Beatitudes, as given in the fifth chapter of Matthew. Place on rungs only the words necessary for conveying the central thought of each, as here indicated, commencing at bottom.)

The reproached
The persecuted
The peacemakers
The pure in heart
The merciful
That hunger, thirst
The meek
They that mourn
The poor in spirit

This is our "Ladder of Blessings," and shows us how joy may come from least expected sources. The bee goes not alone to the beautiful garden flowers for its honey, but to the thistle growing by the dusty roadside, and the thorn-bush in the tangled wildwood. God's blessings come not alone to the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers and the pure in heart, but to the hungry, the persecuted, the reproached and the sorrowing.

MASK.

Insincerity.—This is for the purpose of hiding a real face, as you all know. By the way, have you observed that most manufactured faces are ugly? There is another kind, however, which is usually very pleasant. We meet persons who greet us with a smile, but we learn later that they tell falsehoods and say unkind things about us. There are others who pretend to be honest and fair, yet who misrepresent and cheat. What do we call such? Hypocrites. Sometimes they deceive us a long time before we discover that back of the smiles and handshakes is a false heart. All the while there was One who knew. "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

MATCHES.

TONGUES.—Strike a match and light a paper, permitting it to burn. From its tiny flame we could start the fire of a great furnace, sending out warmth to many rooms; or form steam for operating a giant engine in a factory. Again, it could set fire to a building, this in turn to others, thus burning a whole town. In the early morning of October 8, 1871, before the sun was up, a woman in Chicago struck a match, lighted her lantern and went out to the barn to milk her cow. The animal kicked the lantern over, the blaze set fire to the barn, and this spread to adjoining structures, on and on, for three days, destroying 17,500 buildings, covering 2,500 acres, leaving 100,000 people homeless, causing a total loss of $200,000,000. And just think of it. All from one little match! Matches are like tongues—very small. Their tiny flames are like words, which may be helpful or discouraging, kind or harsh, resulting in good or evil. Let's repeat together one of the Proverbs: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

MONEY.

DECEPTION.—(Drop a genuine silver coin and a counterfeit.) Do you notice any difference in the sound? Yes. The good piece has the right ring, while the counterfeit has not. Same way with a good person and a hypocrite. One is "genuine" and the other "counterfeit." One lives right and has nothing to conceal. The other lives wrong, but tries to pass for an honest man.

TALENTS.—(Hold up a fifty-cent piece and a silver dollar.) Suppose the one of least value should refuse to be used because it could do only half as much as the other? Foolish coin, we would say. Suppose I should decline to do my part in life because I can do only half as much as some others? Foolish man, you would say, and rightly. Each coin has a place to fill in carrying on the business of the world; so has each of us.

MOTION.

GROWTH.—(Tie Frank's arms to his sides and fasten his feet together. Another boy will go through the motions of cutting wood, a third sawing, a fourth walking, a fifth throwing a ball, and a sixth striking as if to hit it.) If Frank should remain in his present condition for several years, what would be the result? Weakness; ill health. Why? Because of lack of exercise. What about these other boys? They would be stronger, healthier, happier. In what other ways do many boys tie themselves up so that they become sallow, and stunted in growth? By smoking, drinking, loafing. (Give Frank his liberty by cutting the strings.) Now, Frank, you have the same chance as the rest. Yes, all boys must have right habits, do honest work, and participate in clean games, if they would grow into real manhood.

PURITY.—Show model of the idol of three apes—one with "hands," or front paws, over its eyes, another with its ears covered, and the third, its mouth. Even though this can not be obtained, have your hearers stand up, and lead them in demonstrating the meaning of the image. First motion, hands over the eyes, "see no evil;" second, hands over the ears, "hear no evil;" third, hand over the mouth, "speak no evil."

CHOOSING.—Make marks on the blackboard representing a road that forks. If it can be done, have chairs so arranged that aisles may represent the same idea. At the point of separation, place two signs, with hands, as on a guide-board. On the one pointing to the left, have the words Drinkville, Gambleburg, Sweartown, Smokevalley, Sorrowland, Lostfield. On the one indicating the right, have the words Honorbound, Truthton, Cleanville, Joycup, Successtown, Crownland. Ask some boy to walk down the aisle to the point of the fork, and pause to choose the way he wishes to go. Have the entire group read the names aloud together. Call for suggestions to the traveler as to which direction to take, and why.

MUD.

GOSSIP.—Make small quantity of mud by pouring water in a pan of dirt. Suppose some one throws it on your dress or coat, should you throw some on him? Certainly not. You would add to your trouble by soiling your own hands. When is the best time to remove the spot? No, not right away, nor by rubbing it, for you would simply make it larger. Wait until it dries, and it will come off easy, leaving the garment unharmed. . . . If any one speaks unkindly or tells falsehoods about us, we injure ourselves if we likewise treat them. Again, if we wait awhile we may talk it over with the offender, when we are more calm, and come out of the unpleasant incident unharmed.

PETRIFACTION.

LIVING.—(If possible, obtain pieces of petrified wood, and exhibit with green twig from a tree.) Before a tree can become like stone it must cease to be alive; stop growing, and become subject to outside forces—"the infiltration of water containing dissolved mineral matter." We speak of certain individuals as being "hardened"; others, as "hard-hearted." In either instance we refer to an abnormal condition. The infiltration of selfishness has done its work for them. Those who are "alive" to the needs of humanity and to their own opportunities for meeting such needs; who are "growing" in good works and in appreciation of the joy of helping others—are never hardened, nor made hard-hearted. They are *living* and not *petrified.*

PLANTS.

ENVIRONMENT.—Show a stalk or piece of vine that has grown in the sunshine, with its natural shade of rich green. If possible, obtain a growth of the same species that was deprived of the sunlight—perhaps taken from a cellar, basement or dark room. What caused the difference? Then, if pure, warm air and sunshine are necessary to healthy plant-life, what about healthy

boy-life and girl-life? What is even more important than sunlight for boys and girls, men and women? *Soul-light,* certainly. In John 8:12 we read that Jesus said: "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

PICTURES.

EXAMPLE.—Show picture of a demonstrator, clipped from an advertisement or procured from a grocer. This woman represents a big firm. It is her duty to show goods, tell how to use them, and pass out samples. If she does this well, she is a worthy representative of the company. It should be the business of each of us to be demonstrators for God—to show forth his power and goodness in our daily lives, that others may be impressed to do likewise. If we do this well, we are worthy representatives of our Creator and Saviour.

CHEERFULNESS.—Exhibit a photograph. When we have our pictures taken we try to look our best. We would not think of frowning. Why not be pleasant all the time? If we cultivate the habit of cheerfulness, the face will naturally be pleasant. If we are right within, the outside will be right. "A glad heart maketh a cheerful countenance," we read in Prov. 15:13. Try it.

This helpful and important sentiment is found in one of the Psalms: "Thy word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."

POISON.

THOUGHTS.—Obtain a "poison" label from a druggist, or write the word in bold letters on a piece of paper, and paste on a bottle. What effect would even one drop of poison have on the system, if swallowed? It would mean certain death, unless an antidote be quickly administered. . . . Evil thoughts are like poison. Just one will paralyze the better nature, unless an antidote is taken. The best antidote is good thoughts. They crowd out the poison ones. *Beware of poison!*

POSTAGE-STAMPS.

PERSEVERANCE.—(Show stamp of any denomination that has not been used.) When this is placed on a letter it will stay with it until it has reached its destination. "It stays with the job," as some one has expressed it. Let's learn the lesson for ourselves.

SERVICE.—(Exhibit stamp that has been used.) We see here the marks indicating that this stamp has accomplished the purpose for which it was intended. Our paths should be "marked" by good deeds all along the way, indicating that we are accomplishing the purpose God has in our lives.

SCALES.

GROWTH.—(Hand-scales will do.) When boys and girls are growing up they frequently get weighed. They want to become men and women. But they are not thinking of how much they will *weigh* when they have attained their growth, but what they will *do*. Conduct makes up life. We speak of one person as being a prominent politician, another as a great society leader, and so forth. We know, however, that those who have the most "weight" in a community of upright citizens are the men and women who are the least selfish and work for the best interests of the largest number of people. The "weight of their influence" is always on the side of right.

STRING.

UNITED EFFORT.—Give to each of a number of boys a string seven or eight feet in length. Have in the room some object weighing ten to fifteen pounds, and ask each boy if any one of the strings is strong enough to raise it from the floor. "No." Then, how can we manage it? Twist the strings all into one cord. (Suit the action to the word.) So, boys, we feel we can do but little by ourselves, but when we all work together, we can accomplish much.

HABITS.—Have a boy hold up both hands together. Tie a

string around them and ask him to break it. Then put it twice around, which he will also easily snap. Keep on, tying with one more each time until he can not break them. . . . The boy who does a wrong act once may quit it; yes, twice, or thrice, but if he continues he will come to the time when the habit has all but conquered him, and he can break it only by great effort, if at all.

STATIONERY.

INFLUENCE.—Here are paper, pen and ink, Fred. Please write in bold letters, "We live in deeds, not years." Thanks, that's well done. Now, there's a still better way of writing. Paul tells us about it in the third chapter of 2 Corinthians, third verse. Let's read it all together: "Ye are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in tables that are hearts of flesh." We see that right-living is the important thing. When we write on the hearts of others, we are writing for eternity.

STEEL.

GROWTH.—(Obtain from your hardware dealer a pound of steel, and from your jeweler, a hairspring for a watch; he will probably loan you a good one, or present you a broken one, which will answer your purpose. Place the spring in a small oval bottle, corked, so it may be seen without touching.) This pound of steel is worth a nickel, more or less. If it should be made into hair-springs its value would be increased to $2,000. A pound of gold, worth $216, when manufactured into jewelry, is worth only about $500. Isn't it really wonderful that a pound of steel may be increased in value *forty thousand times,* while a pound of gold can hardly be made to treble its original value? History gives us many instances of boys who had to win their way practically unaided—possessing little else than the steel of courage, tempered with patient persistence, but who were determined to make their efforts count for the greatest possible good

—far surpassing others blessed with every advantage that gold could bring to them.

TOOLS.

GOSSIP.—Hammer. We may use this in putting up a building or in tearing one down. Do you know any one who goes around tearing down human buildings—characters? who almost habitually finds fault with others? What do we call such persons? Knockers; that's the name. Don't be a knocker. Be a builder. Be a helper.

HARMONY.—Plane. We use this to make rough boards smooth. Think of some one you know who is always trying to make things pleasant—straightening out little quarrels and keeping everybody "sweet." Like the plane, such people are making rough places smooth. "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons of God."

DETERMINATION.—(Prepare an inch board, about 6x12, by marking and lettering as here indicated, with heavy pencil. Give

CHRISTIAN	LAWYER	DOCTOR	TEACHER
	MINISTER	SURVEYOR	MECHANIC
ELECTRICIAN	ATHLETE	BOOKKEEPER	FARMER
MERCHANT	POLITICIAN	REFORMER	RAILROADER

out beforehand two nails to each of several boys, and have concealed hammer near. When ready, hold up the board.) We have here in this large square the word "Christian," and in each small square the name of some occupation. Will the boys who have nails in their pockets please come forward? Of themselves, nails are like good resolutions, good intentions, right desires—useless. You must have the hammer of determination to drive them, to use them for their intended purpose. (Bring forth the

hammer.) Will each of you who is a Christian, or expects to be, please drive a nail in the large square (indicating same), and also one in the small square bearing the name of what you wish to become in life? (In the first school where this was used, the seven boys who came forward each drove a nail in the large square, and then another in some one of the small squares. The scene made a wonderful impression upon the audience, as well as upon the boys themselves.)

TOY BALLOON.

TROUBLE.—How many of you have knives? All right; James, Seth and Harold, please open yours and make an effort to cut a hole in this balloon. (As they prepare to follow your request, break the string holding it to your desk, thus permitting it to rise to the ceiling.) Why don't you cut it, boys? Can't reach it? What made it go up? Because it is lighter than its surroundings. You notice it simply arose above the trouble which was apparently in store for it. You can do the same thing, every one of you. If a quarrel is started, have nothing to do with it. If some one would injure you by falsehood, rise above it. Be above conduct of any kind of which your conscience does not approve.

WATCH.

LOVE.—One kind of watch manufactured contains over three hundred pieces. Regardless of how much or how little a watch may cost, there's one part which must be in its place and in good shape if it is to keep correct time. Who will name it? The mainspring, yes. . . . It's like people. They may be rich or poor, educated or uneducated, and yet, if they are to fill their place in the world in the right way, they must have the mainspring of right action—love. When you go home, please read the thirteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians once more, with the mainspring in mind, and you will see that love is the one thing of supreme importance.

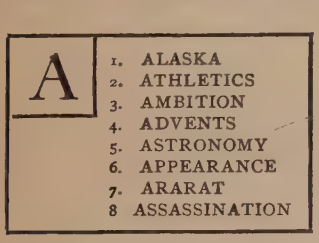
BETTER THAN A SCRAPBOOK

A CONVENIENT CLIPPING SYSTEM.

Public speakers feel the need of information obtainable from newspapers, magazines and other publications, aside from all the helps that books may provide. A good clipping system is essential in keeping up to date. Furthermore, there is personality in the selection one makes for himself.

In this busy age we want the system that will save the most time and prove the most convenient. The scrapbook has the disadvantage of limited space, as a whole, and is not satisfactory for continuous classification by subjects. The pigeon-hole plan requires too much unused space. Preservation of publications soon becomes cumbersome.

The envelope system is ideal. If you adopt it, buy large envelopes—the best and most durable you can get, open on the side. On the upper left-hand corner of each make the letters—large "A" on the one for subjects commencing with this letter; "B" for the one containing clippings on subjects beginning with the second letter of the alphabet, and so on. The illustration shows a possible arrangement of the "A" envelope, containing information on the subjects given. Other subjects to be added as clippings are obtained.



It will be observed that each is preceded by a number. All clippings on a subject should bear the *same number,* corresponding with the one on the face of envelope. Thus it is possible, on

the instant, with a mass of thousands of clippings on hundreds of subjects, from "A" to "Z," to segregate just those you want. Suppose you wish to make a talk on "Ambition," or any theme related to it. Take from the "A" envelope all clippings bearing the number "3," and you are ready for work, without the waste of a minute.

Another advantage of this system over the scrapbook is that if you wish to take a particular article to some meeting, or loan it to a friend, it is easily done.

If you are making a special study of a subject, with many clippings, covering a considerable period of time, it would be well to use a separate envelope.

If you have much reading, it may not be desirable to at once cut out the articles you wish to keep. Others in the family may not have perused the publications. Under such circumstances, mark the item with a large, bold "X"—or in any way you prefer—and mark the top of the first page, or cover, in the same way. By the side of this outside "X" make an "O" when *later* you have clipped the material you wish to keep. Then the paper may be put aside, given away, or destroyed, so far as you are concerned. The same system will prove of convenience even though no one else has access to your literature, particularly if you sometimes get behind with your reading and clipping.

AN OCCASIONAL PRIVILEGE

EFFECTIVE METHOD OF RAISING MONEY.

It sometimes happens that a public speaker can render helpful service by raising money for various purposes. One of the most simple and effective plans is the "square" system, which may be varied to suit the occasion.

If it is $10,000 for the dedication of a new church, have a blackboard or chart representing one hundred squares, at $100

LOYAL SONS' CARPET FUND 56 Yards—80c. Each						
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X		

each. One person may subscribe any amount. Mark off with an "X" one square for each $100. Two persons with $50 each, or four with $25, may combine in taking one square.

If it is to buy a carpet for a room in the church, let each square represent a yard. Money for a new sidewalk may be obtained in the same way; and, with slight variations, for other purposes.

Those not familiar with this method can hardly realize how effective it may be made. An element of great merit which must impress one is that the amount, for whatever purpose desired, may easily be kept in mind by all present, and that every one may see the progress as indicated by checking off the squares, thus stimulating interest and response as the work proceeds.

SEED THOUGHTS

SUGGESTIONS IN PARAGRAPHS.

Quest must precede conquest.

"If you wish to go up, get down."

"The best kind of tact is contact."

One to-day is worth two to-morrows.

"To forget a wrong is the best revenge."

"One of these days is none of these days."

Be not simply good; be good for something.

"A good word is as soon said as a bad one."

"Every drunkard was once a moderate drinker."

"The best thing in the world is to live above it."

"It is well to think well; it is divine to act well."

Don't delay. To-day will be yesterday to-morrow.

"Gold goes in at every gate except that of heaven."

To be a man too soon is to be a small man.—*Ruskin.*

"Honor your position: don't wait for it to honor you."

The only way to have a friend is to be one.—*Emerson.*

"The things we do not possess make life worth living."

Live right. You may be old at forty or young at eighty.

"Provide for the worst; the best will take care of itself."

"If you can not do what you like, try to like what you do."

Don't be a knocker. You can't "saw wood" with a hammer.

"The present is the future from which we hoped so much."

"Simple diet is best, for many dishes bring many ailments."

"If things were to be done twice, all of us would be wise."

Whitewashing the pump will not purify the water.—*J. Ellis.*

Having and holding is poverty; having and giving is wealth.

A man can not fail who believes in himself.—*James G. Blaine.*

"A good scare will often help a man more than good advice."

"He that is afraid of doing too much always does too little."

"The truest end of life is to know the life that never ends."

Buried seeds will grow, but buried talents will not.—*Beecher.*

"There is nothing terrible in death, save what life has made so."

One way to get ahead and stay ahead is to use a head.—*Ambition.*

"The chief sign of inefficiency is the dread of working overtime."

The best test of apostolic succession is apostolic success.—*Ellis.*

Many persons are like sun-dials—friends only when the sun shines.

In giving, man receives more than he gives.—*George Macdonald.*

He who is lavish in words is apt to be niggard in deeds.—*Raleigh.*

"If some people would laugh more, their doctor bills would be less."

"Be as kind as you can to-day, because you may be gone tomorrow."

They are never alone who are accompanied by noble thoughts.—*Sidney.*

"The Christian on his knees sees more than the philosopher on tiptoe."

He who talks much of what he has done is not likely to do much more.

The Bible fits man for life and prepares him for death.—*Daniel Webster.*

"A wise man will neither speak nor do what anger would provoke him to."

I have not so great a struggle with my vices, great and

numerous as they are, as I have with my impatience.—*John Calvin.*

The larger the income, the harder it is to live within it.—*Whatley.*

"The devil has no happy old people." All of God's old people are happy.

"The wages of sin is death, no matter how promptly we pay the pew rent."

When parents spoil the children it is the egotism of parental love.—*Carlyle.*

Age is not measured by years, but by the heart and spirit.—*Lillian Russell.*

Three *bar* scenes in logical order: The saloon, the courtroom and the prison.

"You can not have two better friends than the twin brothers Pull and Push."

"Fate is inside, not outside, a young man when he enters the field of struggle."

"Have patience. If you will pick the blossoms, you must do without the fruit."

Whatever you dislike in another person, take care to correct in yourself.—*Sprat.*

"The casual interruptions we meet in life are less obstructions than opportunities."

Don't hold back because you can't do much. "Every pea helps to fill the sack."

"One can not praise a man too much who speaks well of them who speak ill of him."

Kindness has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence or learning.—*F. W. Faber.*

"God often has a great share in a little house, and a little share in a great house."

"The fellow who is fired with enthusiasm for his work is seldom fired by the boss."

"You can't take your money to heaven with you, but you *can* send it on ahead of you."

"There are no elevators in the house of success. You must toil up, a step at a time."

The less religion a church has, the more oyster soup it takes to run it.—*Billy Sunday.*

"He who loves the buds and blossoms is little concerned about the briars and brambles."

"There is more chance for a cripple on the right road than for a racer on the wrong."

I thank God that the Pilgrim Fathers struck a rock when they landed.—*P. S. Hansen.*

Youth is a principle set in the world's heart for the world's renewing.—*Hugh McLellan.*

Those who stay in the *ruts* have but to change the last two letters to get the result—*rust.*

Our ground for believing in a future life is simply *because God is.—Florence Nightingale.*

The men who move the world are the ones who do not let the world move them.—*J. Ellis.*

A judicious silence is always better than truth spoken without charity.—*Francis De Sales.*

Japanese proverb: "A man takes a drink, the drink takes a drink, then drink takes the man."

Brains in the head and love in the heart are worth more to a real man than money in the bank.

"Happiness is a perfume you can not pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself."

Eve's fall in six scenes: Listening, Looking, Longing, Sinning, Tempting, Blaming.—*Tarbell.*

Disappointment should be taken as a stimulant and never as a disappointment.—*C. B. Newcomb.*

When Alexander the Great was asked how he conquered the world, he replied: "By not delaying."

Contentment abides with truth. The mask soon becomes an instrument of torture.—*Arthur Helps.*

There are a great many church-members who are just hobbling about on crutches.—*D. L. Moody.*

He who can not forgive others breaks the bridge over which he must pass himself.—*George Herbert.*

Cut out the fear of things that never happen and you will reduce your troubles 90 per cent.—*Grit.*

The timepiece that won't run can be right only twice in every twenty-four hours. Moral: Keep busy.

A miser grows rich by seeming poor. An extravagant man grows poor by seeming rich.—*Shenstone.*

"Dissatisfaction with our condition is often due to the false idea we have of the happiness of others."

Don't ruin your eyes looking for spots on the sun. Go about your work, enjoying its warmth and light.

Men are generally more desirous of being improved in their portraits than in their characters.—*Lowell.*

No picture ever painted, no statue ever carved, is half so beautiful as the Christ-formed man.—*Hillis.*

Christ's sheep are marked in the *ear* and the *foot*—"they *hear* my voice and *follow* me."—*W. J. Bath.*

Expert bridge-builders make their structures seven or eight times stronger than the ordinary traffic needs.

Forget not to show love to boys, for thereby some have entertained great men unawares.—*L. R. Harlan.*

The fellow who delights in drawing much on a cigarette spoils his chances for drawing much on a bank.

"If men would take more candy and fewer grouches home with them, there wouldn't be so many divorces."

"No man can make or break a habit in a moment, but at any moment we can *begin* to make or break a habit."

"Those who would make their lives count, should be counted among those upon whom some church may count."

An hour a day profitably employed would make an ignorant man a well-informed man in ten years.—*Marden.*

There is no witness so terrible, no accuser so powerful, as conscience, that dwells in every breast.—*Polybius.*

Work is not man's punishment. It is his reward and his strength, his glory and his pleasure.—*George Sand.*

As you live, so must you pass from this earth. Keep your record clean. God's bookkeeper makes no mistakes.

A man without a country is an exile in the world, and a man without God is an orphan in eternity.—*Van Dyke.*

Little minds are too much wounded by little things. Great minds see all, and are not even hurt.—*La Rochefoucauld.*

It is better that great souls should dwell in small houses rather than that slaves should lurk in palaces.—*Epictetus.*

"Give the children a chance. Normal conditions make normal boys and girls, who in turn make normal men and women."

"If you try to throw dust in other people's eyes, you must not be surprised if they become blind to your good points."

Live so that all who know you, but don't know Christ, will want to know him because they know you.—*Meade McGuire.*

I have seen many dying-beds, but never one which seemed a proper place to make preparation for eternity.—*Albert Barnes.*

"If you trust, you are trusted; if you suspect, you are suspected; if you love, you are loved; if you hate, you are hated."

Fretting is a confession of weakness; it is like the little dog pawing and whining at a door because he can't get in.—*Beecher.*

The mistake of optimistic people is not in expecting too much of the future, but in exacting too little from the present.—*Tyler.*

Plan your work and work your plan. Heard at a church convention: "A missionary budget is a good thing if you budge it."

The pivot of piety is prayer. A pivot is of double use—it holds in place, and it is the axis of revolution.—*Arthur T. Pierson.*

Bear the hen's cackle for the sake of the egg. Little annoyances must be put up with because of great advantages.—*Spurgeon.*

Be grateful to those who serve you. The tree we so much admire would die were it not for the roots which are out of sight.

"The Bible is the most wonderful book in all the world—if it's true. It is ten thousand times more wonderful if it is not true."

The reason a lot of people can not find Opportunity is because it goes around disguised as Hard Work.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

The goods on the shelves should be as good as those in the show-window. The practice of man should be as good as his profession.

"In every pathway in the journey of life there are valleys to cross, as well as hills to scale. Don't stop in the valleys. Reach the hilltops."

The man whose house is on the sand may talk boldly in fair weather, but how quickly he turns pale when thunder is heard.—*E. P. Brown.*

I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to the light I have.—*Lincoln.*

What the world thinks of you is nothing. It is between you and your Maker. What do you think of yourself? What does God think of you?

Question: Which is the most important—the elimination of coal smoke from the cities, or the elimination of tobacco smoke from everywhere?

The youth gets together his materials to build a palace, and at length the middle-aged man concludes to build a woodshed with them.—*Thoreau.*

If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should

find in each man's life enough sorrow and suffering to disarm all hostility.—*Longfellow.*

It is good to be thrown overboard and left to ourselves. What we lose in comfort we gain in energy—the most precious of weapons.—*Charles Wagner.*

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